FMA Case Study:
McKenzie Lawson Football Training Center

{Situation}

The University of Tennessee decided to expand its current indoor football practice facility at the Knoxville campus. The current facility on the corner of Lake Loudoun Boulevard and Chamique Holdsclaw Drive faced a major challenge with the terrain. On the south side of the building, the site transitioned approximately 35 feet to the road below.

Thus, the new building would need multiple stories exiting at different elevations along the same road, and that kind of multi-story expansion would require major excavation, but without compromising the integrity of the existing facility. Falling might be fine for Humpty Dumpty, but not for an FMA project.

{Solution}

FMA began by establishing all of the different constraints on the site and designing a plan of attack. The design team chose to implement internal building retaining walls to protect the existing structure—and eliminate the threat of Humpty Dumpty moment.

FMA also developed plans to construct the building walls first and leave them exposed while the team finalized the building design. FMA' plans also let in natural light and included the grading and draining of the site to allow access to building from all four stories.

{Success}

The University and the State of Tennessee approved the state-of-the-art $40 million McKenzie Lawson Football Training Center. Construction is currently under way, and the football program will move into its new home in 2012.

"FMA has been an integral part of the planning process for the Football Training Center. Their ability to work with the design team and the University has helped to shape the site into a facility we can all be proud of. Through hard work and teamwork they were able to deliver the project on time with no surprises."

~ Kevin Zurcher, University of Tennessee

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