Development of the porch and its roof is the last piece required for full integration of regional continuity with contemporary building practices. The porch construction detailing, as previously discussed, is used to create a simply-built and understated space for connecting the buildings and the lawn.

Images:

(above left) Sketch of the front porch of an existing house within this region.
(above second) Sketch of new county complex public porch space.
(above third) Watercolor painting of the front porch of an Edenton house.
(above fourth) Photo, by author, from the porch of an Edenton house across the edge of Albemarle Sound.
(above fifth) Photo, by author, of Edenton house.
(above right) Sketch of new county complex public porch roof framing system.
(below) Elevation drawing of the new county complex buildings and porch from the new public lawn.
The elevations of the new construction along King Street reveal how the use of scale, space and materials can create a strong relationship from the past to the current built form. The desire for continuity from the past to the present is achieved through translating the tectonic and spatial relationships of eighteenth-century building practices into work that is recognizably contemporary.

While the tower of the old Courthouse is not reflected in the new, the mass of the central brick Georgian gabled projection of the old Courthouse is balanced by the open space of the covered entry into the new Courthouse.

The mass of the brick entry façade of the old Courthouse and its lack of general openness is the result of a limited structural capability to create great openings with the materials available. It was also desirable at the time to create judiciary buildings and centers of government which projected a sense of permanence.

The new Courthouse is provided with the same type of construction mass at its base and walls, giving the same sense of permanence. The roof, however, uses the properties of steel truss framing to open the spaces to natural light.

In conclusion, through the design of this municipal complex, the intention has been to examine what it means to design with a clear sense of time and place. This work has been an honest examination of past building and community nuances for translation and inclusion in the development of new buildings while using contemporary construction methods.