



Cooper Block Building

Don McLaughlin, AIA
Place Architecture
118 East Main, Suite A
Bozeman, Montana
406-586-0033
donm@placearch.com
www.placearch.

The Montana Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is pleased to announce Place Architecture is the recipient of the 2005 Excellence in Design Honor Award for 2005. Place Architecture will now be able to compete at the Regional level in 2006.

The program requirements for this restoration and remodel were: a Main Street tenant space, and an architectural studio. Other spaces needed were: a gallery/lobby, a conference room, a library and a roof gathering area.

This building is contained in a long and narrow site within downtown buildings in Bozeman, Montana. This situation gave opportunity for two distinct and different characters, the main street façade and the alley façade.

The design approach for each was entirely different with a comprehensive historic restoration being completed on the main street façade including a total seismic upgrade, restoration of the brick cornice that had once been removed, and replacement of the Carrera glass façade and windows to match the original historic patterns. Not only is the façade part of the oldest buildings on Main Street, it is also an Art Deco example of one of Montana's premier architects - Fred Wilson. The alley design responds to the major bank entrance to one side and evolving messy vitality of the other adjacent structures. In the 1970's, the bank attempted to set a standard that would encourage merchants to see the potential in the "alley" side of their buildings. There are several alleys in Bozeman which serve as primary customer entries, and this new design intended to make the alley a good neighborhood.

Linking these new facades is a contemporary interior with significant natural daylighting and a focus on sustainable design. The daylighting is maximized through the use of skylights running the length of the building. The design also takes full advantage of the southern exposure, maximizing solar gain during the winter months. The new construction combines many sustainable and energy elements.

The most dramatic is a large stone wall defining the long axis of the site and acting as a passive heating and cooling device. Wood was reclaimed from the demolition of recent additions to the historic building and re-used as the ceiling of the stair tower as well as the finishing of the guardrails. Standard concrete pavers are used on the roof top gathering area to radiate the day's heat during cool evenings. The new construction also uses natural stone, stucco, wood materials, bamboo and Interface flooring.

The Montana Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is located in Billings, Montana. For more information, visit www.aia-mt.org or call 406-259-7300.