



2007 Award of Excellence  
**AIA Montana Design Awards Program**  
Honor Award



*Architect of Record:*

**Kibo Group Architecture**  
140 South 4th Street W, Ste 2  
Missoula, MT 59801  
406-542-5050  
joury@kibogroup.com  
www.kibogroup.com

### **The H.O. Bell Building**

This 9,000 sf (footprint) building was constructed in 1952 as the H.O. Bell Ford dealership tire warehouse. For its time it was an innovative structure with concrete walls, stressed-skin panel roofs and 6' tall wooden beams spanning 75'. In 1980, an evangelical church purchased the empty building and remodeled it to fit their need. Our design goal as architects was to return the building to a more pure exemplification of its original self, while providing open, dynamic spaces that would encourage the collaboration of residents and office workers alike.

The building, which is located in downtown Missoula's "hip strip" was transformed into six commercial, office and residential spaces and now is approximately 18,000 square feet with both floors. The project was sustainably designed with the ambition to meet LEED certification standards, with the most obvious green step being the decision to keep the original structure intact.

All waste from the demolition process was recycled whenever possible or contributed to local building workshops. Quality existing materials, in addition to the entire shell structure, were retained and reused. New materials consist of simple concrete flooring, reclaimed hardwood flooring finished with low-VOC stains, reclaimed beams, energy efficient mechanical systems, recycled material cabinetry, and Xeriscape landscaping to maintain low water usage.

The diverse residents and organizations that have come to use the building include our architectural offices, non-profit environmental organizations, developers, a retired rancher, and an artist. For us, this dynamic interaction of creative, inspiring people has bolstered our belief in the goals that defined this project and in the value of good design. It was a pleasure to move into an office space designed and constructed with green building methods explored at every turn.