

FYI BUSINESS

NEWS, TRENDS AND EVENTS IN TULSA BUSINESS

Freese Architecture restores downtown building

Brian L. Freese, a local architect and principal of Freese Architecture Inc., has realized a longtime dream with the restoration of a downtown building that now houses his office.

"I really love the feel of an urban area, and with all that is now happening and slated to happen downtown, it is an exciting time to be here," he said.

In late 2004, Freese heard that the Photosmith building at 1634 S. Boston Ave. was vacant, so he and his wife, Judy, purchased it and transformed it into a contemporary office. It also houses Interior Logistics, a medical-health care furniture and equipment business.

The building's transformation was significant. It was comprised of several small offices, narrow hallways and a concrete block wall that divided the space in half. Freese remodeled it into an open, light-filled office incorporating many sustainable elements and an environmentally friendly design. Features include concrete floors, fluorescent and low-voltage lighting, low-odor-emitting cabinetry materials and paints, a high-efficiency HVAC system, reclaimed construction materials, reusable exterior veneer material and low irrigation plantings.

He also recycled or donated much of the construction debris.

"I have a passion for both contemporary architecture and sustainable design," Freese said. "This project gave me the opportunity to combine the two and create the kind of space I wanted for my office. I also wanted to use the building to illustrate that contemporary architecture is not in all cases cold and harsh, and can instead be warm and inviting."

The building's design incorporates various techniques to bring natural light inside. They include large floor-to-ceiling glass walls and skylights in key locations. The entry lobby and executive offices have glass walls surrounding an entry courtyard, which features a pond



Courtesy

The Photosmith building at 1634 S. Boston Ave. has been renovated into offices for architect Brian Freese. The entry lobby and executive offices have glass walls surrounding an entry courtyard, which features a pond and fountain, and a large skylight is located above the main studio.

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"The courtyard space is meant to bring nature into the building, which is something I try to do in virtually all of my projects," Freese said.

The exterior of the building is a fiber cement board material, and a wooden trellis adorns the roof over the entry courtyard. The landscaping features natural grasses.

Freese Architecture offers custom residential and commercial architecture and design services, and has been in business in Tulsa for nearly 14 years.

For more information, call 744-7667.



Downtown restoration

Freese: The Tulsa architect renovated a building at 16th Street and Boston Avenue in a contemporary design that is home to his business.