



The Collins
Companies

CORPORATE OFFICES

the goal

Our vision statement best sums up our goal in remodeling our corporate offices: Do the right thing. For us that meant minimizing the impact on the environment by choosing to remodel over building new; by choosing to use sustainable materials and energy efficient systems wherever possible; by choosing partners with an environmental commitment; by choosing to reuse and recycle construction waste; by choosing to create healthier and more productive work spaces for our employees; and by choosing to remain in our downtown location which is close to public transportation and city services.



Employee comfort and energy savings were key factors in determining configurations for natural light, air circulation, lighting, and views.

- Workstations are punctuated with glass areas to allow shared light and cross-views while wood finishes provide a warm feeling.
- Operable windows were added to the existing curtain-wall to reduce the load demand on the air-conditioning, provide fresh air, as well as connect employees with the outdoors.
- Indirect fluorescent lighting and motion/ambient light sensors increase energy efficiency, reduce eye strain, and turn lights off when no one is in a work area.
- Skylights were added within the open office areas to reduce artificial lighting demand and provide for natural daylight and a higher level of comfort within the interior spaces.



the space

reuse & recycle

Our philosophy is to protect the earth's resources by recycling and reusing materials – over and over again.

- All construction waste including drywall, metal, and wood scrap were sorted and recycled off-site to reduce materials for landfills.

- Existing cabinets from our previous kitchen space were reused in the new recycling center. The former boardroom conference table was refinished and chairs reupholstered for use in the sales conference room. Existing CollinsWood cherry doors from the prior office space were re-cut and refinished as bi-fold coat closet doors in the new office.

the materials

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified CollinsWood®

As the first name in certified forest products we, of course, made extensive use of CollinsWood.

- CollinsWood industrial grade white fir lumber for entry doors and relights.
- CollinsWood black cherry lumber and veneer for interior doors, pilasters, architectural panels, and bases.
- CollinsWood pine particleboard with clear, water-based finishes for the kitchen and work area cabinets designed and built by Neil Kelly.
- CollinsWood pine particleboard as substrate for architectural panels and pilasters.
- CollinsWood hard maple flooring in both select and character grades.
- CollinsWood "Wall of Wood" showcase for displaying our hardwood and softwood species, products, and grades.
- CollinsWood lumber, particleboard, and veneer for tables and credenzas designed and manufactured by VIDA as a prototype for their new line of FSC-certified office furniture.

Interface® Recycled and Recyclable Carpet Squares

- By using Interface squares, small portions can be easily replaced and materials recycled, and by using carpet with no VOCs in the adhesive, we are reducing air-borne toxins and creating a healthier environment for our employees.

Marmoleum® Flooring and Countertops

- Marmoleum is made from wood flour, linseed oil, and resin instead of petroleum that depletes our natural resources.

Armstrong Ceiling Tile

- This material is made from mineral fiber and contains 79% recycled content and is recyclable.

Water-Based Finishes

- Low and no VOC (volatile organic compounds) finishes were used on the clear particleboard cabinetry and hardwood maple flooring. The release and recirculation of VOCs are the primary cause of sick building syndrome.



the partners

Building Partners

We made a conscious effort to work with partners who are enhancing our environment through efforts to create sustainable products and to design and build sustainably. Those include SERA Architects, Neil Kelly, VIDA, Interface, The Joinery, Herman Miller, and Environmental Building Supply. Contact us for a full list of references.

Employee Partners

Allowing our employees to be responsible members of the environmental community at work, we chose to:

- Build showers and lockers to encourage bicycle commuting and lunchtime exercise on the nearby waterfront park.
- Provide access to public transportation by being two blocks from the new streetcar line, on the bus line, four blocks to light rail, and a very short walk to downtown and the waterfront.
- Build a recycling center for all curbside recycling items such as glass, metal, and paper, as well as batteries, overhead transparencies, junk mail, etc.



- Implement the Principles of The Natural Step, which we call our Journey to Sustainability. This is a corporate-wide commitment to move people and businesses toward cyclical resource-preserving methods of materials handling and manufacturing.



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