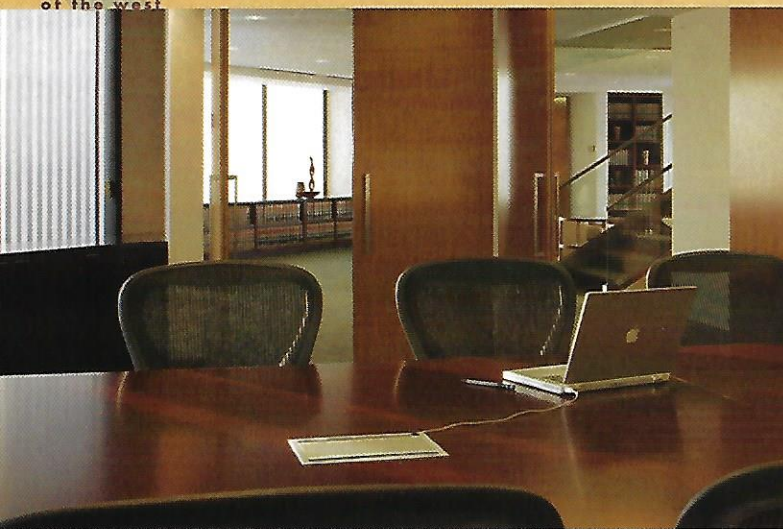


architecture & design

O F T H E W E S T

Beautiful spaces and the people who design, live and work in them





areas. Though relocating the library shelving was tedious because of code restrictions on aisle space, ceiling clearance and sprinkler locations, Carstenson says the newly gained work space was well worth it.

Books, though in decline as day-to-day references, are cleverly used as décor in the large reception area, as well. A granite-topped sideboard-cum-bookcase contains row upon row of serious-looking law books. Says Carstenson: "Since reference materials are available online, some books are now a décor item."

Gensler designated a very specific "conference zone" for the convenience of the firm's clients such as lobby, conference rooms and their attendant work areas.

Teamwork is tops

Gensler (www.gensler.com) has more than 2,000 employees in its 25 offices,

and its specialized divisions, such as the Professional Services Group that designed the Gibson Dunn office, allow Gensler to cater to client needs. According to Koplin, such focused divisions benefit both designer and client. Every week, phone conferences are held to discuss trends, challenges and solutions unique to the professional services arena. In addition to Koplin, the Denver team included Linda Nelson, principal in charge, and architects Jon Gambrell and William Frank. Two design committee members, Barbara Dunn, who is the firm-wide client manager for Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, and Carlos Pasada, are based in Los Angeles.

According to Koplin, "This communication helps us advise clients." Koplin believes that good design equals good business and "It's good for employees. You show them you care enough to create a good environment."

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Carstenson certainly found value in Gensler's services. "Gensler was great. I can't imagine the project going any smoother. They really listened to our needs—which was critical because this was so customized."

This is indeed a remarkable project: responsive to the needs of the client, fair to the environment, impressive yet understated, modern and still classic. Gensler set for itself a difficult task—creating a design program that successfully marries completely remodeled and reconfigured public spaces with extant office and work spaces, without constraining the former or making the latter seem dated.

Well, the verdict is in. The Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher office achieves all that and more.

KIMBERLY MACARTHUR GRAHAM IS A WRITER ON ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND FINE ART FOR MAGAZINES INCLUDING SOURCES+DESIGN AND COLORADO MODERN, AS WELL AS AN ARTIST WITH REGIONAL REPRESENTATION.