

Golden Opportunity
ICG's New Environmentally Sound Offices from GLP
Written by Gary Lee Partners

For over twenty years, ICG has constructed some of Chicago's most spectacular spaces. So when ICG needed to relocate their office to another floor within the same building, they retained Gary Lee Partners, designers of their original space, to design a space that would achieve the same design and detailing quality, with the additional challenge of meeting the LEED Commercial Interiors Gold Rating. The project team addressed the LEED Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, and Indoor Environmental Quality categories and their individual components throughout the design process.

Since the suite retained the same "U" shaped layout as before, GLP provided work areas within the two "legs" with the connecting area containing the reception area, a conference room, and a corridor "gallery" displaying project photography. The planning also allowed ample access to views and delighting for everyone working within the space. And daylight-harvesting occupancy sensors were used to take advantage of this planning tenet to save energy.

Staying in the same building provided multiple advantages. A similar building footprint and core area afforded the opportunity to re-locate many of the components from the original space. With their classic design aesthetic and durable construction – wood millwork secretarial stations, plastic laminate millwork from copy rooms, interior doors and frames, glass wall partitions, accent art lighting and furniture – could all be removed and relocated. Reusing these elements significantly reduced the carbon footprint of the new space.

Developing a fresh color pallet around the reused elements was not difficult because of the neutral, timeless, and high-quality nature of the materials originally selected. The major change in materials was the flooring. A "Green-Guard" certified carpet was specified from a manufacturer who offers a carbon-offset program to make up for the energy expended in the manufacturing and delivery process. In addition, recycled glass terrazzo tile flooring was used in the reception area.

The largest change in the plan was the increased size of the lunch room that would serve as a warm, inviting environment for everyone to gather and relax. In addition to enhancing the desired atmosphere, the cork and bamboo used for the flooring and millwork, contributed to achieving the LEED rating system goal. Recycled glass terrazzo countertops and a recycled glass mosaic-tile backsplash were used to provide a durable and easily maintained surface. And new "Energy Star" appliances were selected to optimize energy performance.

By collaborating as partners committed to providing a space reflective of their mutual dedication to design and construction excellence, ICG and GLP could explore options, develop strategies, combine resources that results in a new office that is as beautiful and

functional as the original with the added benefit of a significantly reduced negative impact on the earth, reduced energy use and a healthy environment.