

Case study

Photographs by Mike Schwartz Photography



Materialistic indulgence

Clean lines and distinct materials illustrate the compelling revival of Ranquist Development Group's office by Chicago-based Vladimir Radutny Architects.

BY TEAM CD

Efficient use of space, maximal aesthetic value and materialistic innovations

are some of the moral offerings that architects, Vladimir Radutny Architects, brought in while refurbishing the old masonry structure into Ranquist Development Group's office. Whilst the vintage envelope was preserved, the design triggered a series of aesthetic makeovers translating into the modern character of the space. Elaborating on the client's brief, the architects husked off the unassuming charm of the existing interiors and used the expansive area of 1,200 sq. ft to encompass the developer's business requirements. The relatively contemporary design provided flexibility within a range of ideas that define functionality and ambience of the workspace. Retaining clear sight lines, the office is an open space reminiscent of the original volumetric dialogue of the

building. In respect to this feature, the first introduction of the office rendered by the architect is the openness of the elongated height and exposed ceiling.

The bare concrete ceiling with slated timber panelling and exposed brick wall form an exceptional backdrop, enhancing the stark appeal of the work environment. The entrance of the office is a simplified imagery of figurative furniture and intriguing use of glass and mesh partitions, which reveal the activities transcending beyond. The planning steps forward to follow a discerning office layout wherein customised furniture is used to generate a contemporary layout. "Structurally supported by two thin perforated metal screens, the desks appear to be cut into smaller segments, defining multiple work areas needed within the single shared space. These striking sheets of metal are designed to be visually intriguing, enhancing the raw qualities of an existing skin," explain the architects.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project: Ranquist Development Offices

Design Architect: Vladimir Radutny Architects

Location: Chicago, USA

Design Team: Vladimir Radutny, Fanny Hothan, Joe Signorelli

Project Area: 1,200 sq. ft

Vladimir Radutny Architects brought in the refurbishing of the old masonry structure to design Ranquist Development Group's office.

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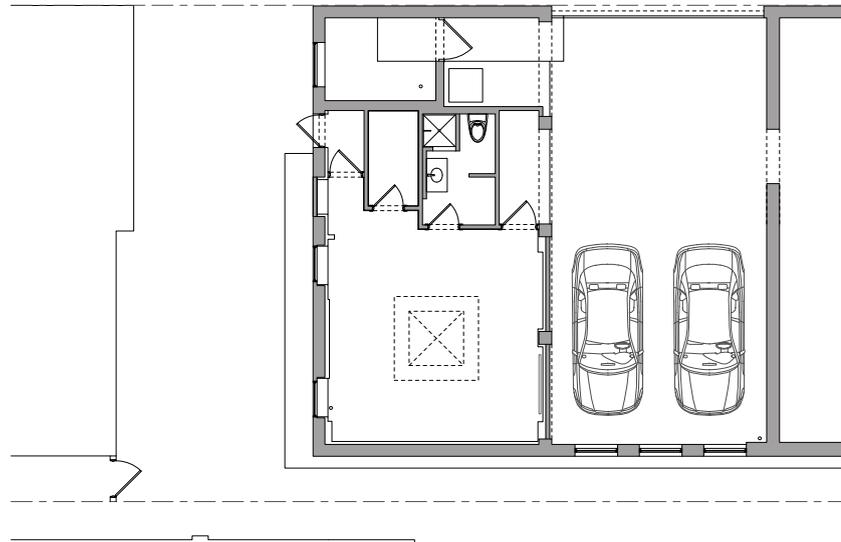
The bare ceiling and exposed brick wall form an exceptional backdrop, enhancing the stark appeal of the work environment.



The facade of the building before and after (below) the remodeling.



Detailed view of the wall cladding.



Metals Screens: Harrington and King Perforating Company

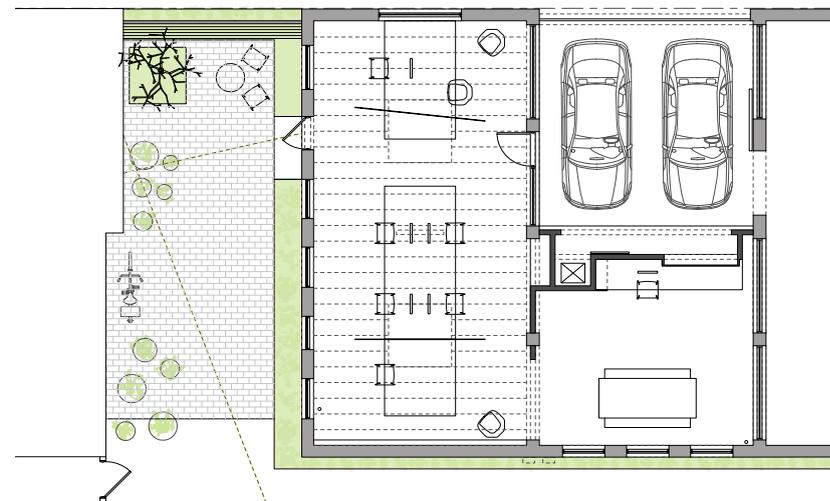
Desks: Custom built using 1/2" Baltic Birch Plywood

Exterior Windows: Marvin

Interior Glass walls: Custom Steel work



The black screen mesh signifies the architect's intention to reinvigorate the span of the office.



Plans: before (left) and after (right)..



Detailed view of the screen mesh.

The plan works to create a sense of comfort and interaction within sections of the workstations. The design composition is direct to help facilitate a clear line of interaction owing to the extensive use of glass. The materiality used is both tactile and retrospective. Where a contemporary agenda is applied, a

suburban character, like retaining the original brick walls, is added to the ambience.

The transitory visual experience between the ceiling and other areas is dramatic and divergent in terms of the material palette. The severe black walls, standing tall in the halls and a seemingly

long span of the office with a large screen mesh, signify the architect's intention to reinvigorate the span. Nude pitches of primary shades, used for the furniture, balances this duality and repurposes the space as an edition of contrasts.

With a bold use of material and willingness to re-interpret

the essence of an old building, the architects have infused new energy and versatility into the space. As a case in point of what can be accomplished with the existing building stock, the Ranquist Development Group's office interiors transformation sets an apt example for adaptive re-use. 📺