



Roy, Shecter & Vocht law offices
Birmingham, MI.

Case Study

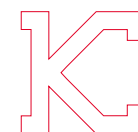
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Architect:
MacPherson Architects Inc / ZMA

Installer:
Birmingham Glass & Mirror

Photographer:
Ryan Southen Photography



Roy, Shecter & Vocht law offices The Project

The new offices for the 30 year old specialty law firm, embrace a modern team workplace paradigm. The design of the 2,500 SF work environment was fostered by the vision and leadership of the Partners to provide a collaborative atmosphere that is unordinary, logical, and essentialist. Abundant glass allows visibility, connectivity, and natural daylight to permeate the spaces.

The goal of creating an ease of movement and workflow has been realized in the spaces, which are transparent, open, and private when needed. The use of simple white walls, clear glass and limited color promotes a feeling of calm and earnest sensibility. Acoustic privacy is achievable in flexible conference areas, collaboration spaces, and office pods which may be closed off by sliding glass panels. The entry area, public spaces, and private workrooms are linked with loop circulation around, and cross circulation through the offices.

This interconnectivity provides the kind of interaction the office team needs to manage the human accessibility and document intensity of the office. Digital screens and technology are integrated in every space to allow intercommunication with those inside and outside the office.

The spaces feature large electronic wall monitors which, when not in use for work related content, stream colorful artistic images of the Partners photographs.

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Team work environment Application

The Law Partners requested a new light filled and forthright work environment that was an expression of their Team approach to collaboration and working together on complex cases. They desired a clean and simple organization of the space to allow for convenient human interaction and seamless document management to flow. Privacy was needed but so was openness.

To create a sense of flow between spaces and allow for light and visual transparency, Architect Kate MacPherson AIA of MacPherson Architects Inc, designed a series of concentric glass and solid planes. The glass planes extended horizontally and vertically in the form of full height glass walls, continuous clerestory glazing around the solid core planes, and sliding glass door planes. The glass panels are vertically frameless with butt glazed seams. Sliding glass panel openings from zone to zone were created with the Klein sliding Uniglass system. The frameless 3/8" thick glass door panels have a simple track at the top to provide a minimalist detail at the jambs and floors so that wall and floor planes provide clean continuity between the spaces. The top track was left exposed to reinforce the horizontal movement of the planes.

With the amount of frameless glass allowing natural light into the spaces, and with the conscientious control of the energy efficient lighting, the energy usage has also been minimized. Visual transparency is achieved through the clear fixed glass panels while the sliding panels are a translucent glass – identifying them as the moving planes and providing privacy to the spaces behind.

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