

EXPOSING THE ELEMENTS

UNIQUE OFFICE DESIGN FEATURES EXPOSED ENGINEERED WOOD PRODUCTS

Summary

PROJECT

Investco Financial Corporation

LOCATION

Sumner, Washington

OWNER

Mike Corliss, Investco Financial Corporation

ARCHITECT

Barry Gehl, Barry Gehl Design Seattle, Washington

CONTRACTOR (SHELL)

Sierra Construction Auburn, Washington

CONTRACTOR (INTERIOR)

Investco/Gehl Sumner, Washington

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

AHBL Tacoma, Washington

ENGINEERED WOOD PRODUCTS

Pre-engineered trusses
Structural panel sheathing
I-joists
Glued laminated beams

SQUARE FOOTAGE

7,800 square feet

COST (INTERIOR BUILD-OUT)

\$16.28 per square foot

Mike Corliss wanted the design of his new office building to showcase his company's trade. Corliss owns Investco Financial Corporation, a property management company, and also owns and operates a local truss manufacturing business.

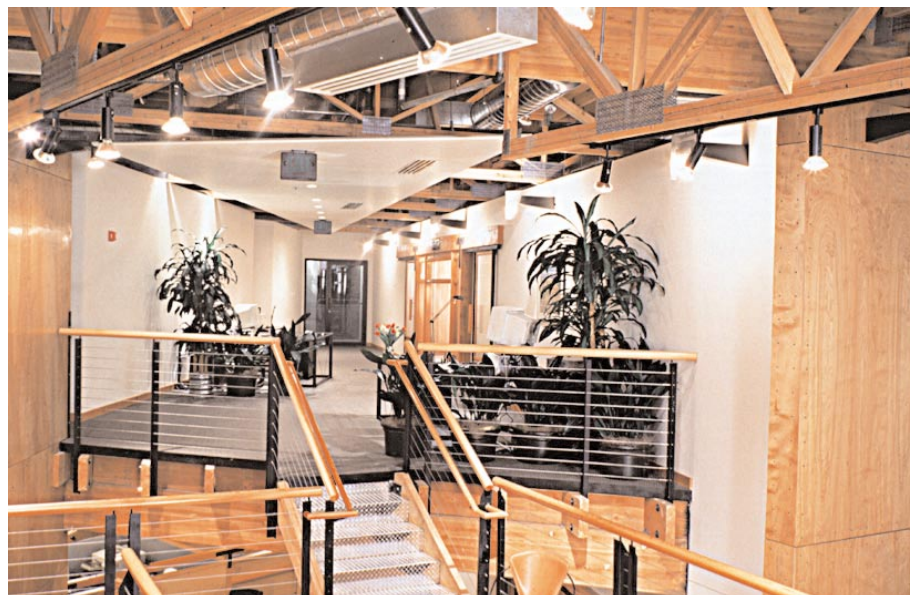
If you had any doubt about the nature of Corliss' wood products business before you visited his headquarters, you would have little doubt when you left. "I wanted this design to reflect our industry," says Corliss. And so it does.

The 7,800-square-foot state-of-the-art office building in the rural community of Sumner, Wash. is a tribute to the use of engineered wood products in the building industry. "We took an otherwise unusable piece of land and decided to house our office there," says Corliss of the triangular site on which the headquarters sits.

The project evolved from Investco's need for a 40,000 sq. ft. warehouse. While office space was not part of the original plan, it developed in response to the odd-shaped parcel of land left over from siting the warehouse.

Dramatic curves and angles, vaulted ceilings and bold Northwest colors accentuate the headquarters' interior. But it's the unfinished sections of the interior that tell the story – the structural story.

Seattle-based architect Barry Gehl mapped out the unique design. Normally concealed engineered wood products such as APA Rated Sheathing, pre-manufactured wood trusses and wood I-joists are combined with glued laminated beams (glulam) in a fully exposed application. Natural wood characteristics such as knots, surface checks and grade deviations, are in full view – adding to the building's rustic appeal.



Investco Financial Corporation's 7,800 sq. ft. office building features APA Rated Sheathing, wood I-joists and glulam beams in fully exposed applications.



The design features a grand entrance with vaulted ceilings, exposed wood walls and acid stained concrete floors.

Setting The Stage

“I view the building as a stage and this design allows you to look behind the set,” says Gehl. The star attraction in his interior design is the combination of exposed structural elements and elegant finishes.

“We worked with themes that emphasized the interplay of opposites,” Gehl recalls. “Simple/complex, solid/void, finished/unfinished, the architectural and interior design unite in a dynamic, theatrical solution.”

The exposed wood trusses, I-joists and construction plywood are in sharp contrast to the distinctive birch veneer plywood panels and finished siding of the remaining interior. The rich use of wood lends an air of elegance to the office space.

Owner Corliss and Designer Gehl teamed up to construct the interior. “We were able to do the tenant improvement work for \$16.28 per square foot, including custom light fixtures and workstations,” says Gehl. That’s less than two-thirds the cost of an average commercial build-out. Gehl credits the use of the exposed engineered wood products as a factor in the lower square footage cost.

A Grand Entrance

Gehl designed a grand entrance with vaulted ceilings, exposed wood walls and acid-stained concrete floors to provide a warm welcoming feeling. Upon entering the building, visitors in the lobby/reception area experience the dramatic interplay of complex objects set against simple, soaring backdrops.

A mammoth exposed APA EWS trademarked glued laminated beam jets into the foyer and leads the eye into a magnificent conference room with large glass doors. Floor-to-ceiling picture glass windows flood the office area with natural light.

The interior shear walls rise 22 feet and are sheathed with APA plywood. Birch veneer covers the shear walls and makes a smooth transition into the exposed beams, I-joists and wood trusses.

The open airy design carries throughout the main floor office space with birch veneer partitioned workstations. Larger offices with sliding doorways open to the workstation area. A triangular-shaped glass sun room provides an open environment for employee breaks and relaxation.

The building’s top floor includes three large offices and an open reception lounge. The exposed structural features and classic finish are visible throughout the main floor and upper level.

Throughout the interior, exposed structural and mechanical elements play against the warmth of Northwest woods. Art, decoration and function share a nearly seamless relationship.

Other architectural design features include fully exposed wood I-joists that are prominently featured above the coffee/break room and open-to-view ductwork. Imaginative and unexpected custom furnishings include a small conference table with built-in Deluxe Monopoly set, reflecting the firm’s real estate interests; and a series of 4’6” x 10’ desks, built from antique French Champagne Racks mounted on sandblasted steel frameworks.

Combined with exposed engineered wood products, Gehl’s design captures the essence of quality workmanship.

Engineered For Design

APA trademarked plywood and oriented strand board and APA EWS trademarked glued laminated beams combined with pre-engineered wood trusses and I-joists are among the most widely used building materials in the construction market. These environmentally-friendly wood products are used in all traditional wood-framed construction and in combination with other structural products and building systems.

APA rated engineered wood products combine the natural beauty of wood with superior structural integrity to provide building owners with cost competitive and aesthetically pleasing structures.

“All of these elements combine to create a building in which the structure is the decoration,” says Gehl. It also demonstrates how exceptional results can be achieved on a limited budget.

We have field representatives in many major U.S. cities and in Canada who can help answer questions involving APA trademarked products. For additional assistance in specifying engineered wood products, contact us:

APA – THE ENGINEERED WOOD ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS

7011 So. 19th St.
Tacoma, Washington 98466
(253) 565-6600 • Fax: (253) 565-7265

Web Address:



www.apawood.org

PRODUCT SUPPORT HELP DESK

(253) 620-7400
E-mail Address: help@apawood.org

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