



October 2008

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Though autumn traditionally marks the approach of year's end, we sometimes see it as a new beginning as the cooler temperatures and fall colors arrive. Schedules become more routinized, we find fewer distractions as the days grow shorter, and we rededicate ourselves to productivity.

This newsletter's focus is commercial projects. The first story is about an endeavor that kept Meyer & Meyer quite busy throughout the summer so that the client could capitalize on the back-to-school season. Frankie's on the Park is a teen-oriented clothing store in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood that opened in August - just in time for kids to make a stylin' return to the classroom.

This ambitious project was only one of our commercial ventures. And while each of our projects is unique and interesting, a couple of our commercial health care projects have been quite out of the ordinary. Be sure to read the story about one such project - the construction of a cutting edge sleep-disorders clinic.

Best wishes for a productive autumn.

Sincerely,

Bob Kostelny



## Stylin' in Lincoln Park

Tucked in one of Chicago's most vibrant commercial areas sits Meyer & Meyer's most recently completed project - a mixed-use building on North Clark Street in Lincoln Park. The newly constructed glass-front building houses Frankie's on the Park, a two-story teen-oriented clothing store topped off with two 1500 sq. ft. rental units.

Designed by Doug Gillespie of Lincoln Park-based architectural firm Mayer Jeffers Gillespie, the completed retail space "speaks" to its clientele. Shoppers are greeted by a 180 sq. foot graffiti mural, with girls' attire on the first floor and boys' furnishings at the top of a wood, steel and glass staircase.

Owner Lisa Burik bought the building that previously stood on the lot in late autumn of 2006. Over the next several months she worked with Gillespie to maximize the narrow lot and create an ideal retail space with attractive three-bedroom, three-bath rental units above. Burik then sought bids from three local contractors. "Meyer & Meyer was the only unknown entity to me," said the storeowner, "but they produced the most thorough proposal and laid out the process for me in very clear terms. And they really adhered to it." Demolition of the old building began in summer 2007, and construction started immediately thereafter.

Building a large new structure in a bustling urban commercial district presents some predictable challenges, from parking and traffic woes to complying with local ordinances, but one thing that could not be anticipated was Chicago's harsh 2008 winter. The unusually snowy season caused Meyer & Meyer to lose six weeks of work time in a schedule with little wiggle room. The store had to be completed by mid-summer to benefit from back-to-school shopping. "Besides," Burik added, "all of our clothing had been ordered, and we would have had no where to put it."

With the grand opening celebrations over and the kids back in school, the Frankie's on the Park owner had time to sit back and think about what made her experience with Meyer & Meyer so successful. "I think it was that they're so client-oriented and flexible. And the way they held weekly meetings with me ensured that we were always on the same page," she concluded.

## A Dream of a Project

Sleep disorders of all sorts are being diagnosed and treated in a state-of-the-art medical facility in Skokie built by Meyer & Meyer Construction. Owned and operated by Lisa Shives, MD, Northshore Sleep Medicine offers comprehensive sleep-disorder services for patients two years of age and older.

Dr. Shives bought the 4,000 sq. ft. free-standing building in December 2006 after an environmental evaluation revealed that no hazards existed from previous owners. Working with Brian Hiram of Stephen Rankin Associates, an architectural firm with medical-facility expertise, Dr. Shives was able to finalize the plan in six months, and construction began thereafter.



The clinic is composed of eight bedrooms that surround an electronic console area. All clinical observation is done electronically, so the bedroom configuration was replicated eight times. Complex electronics specifications were followed, as the vast array of monitoring equipment required precise planning. While the vendor installed the equipment, Meyer & Meyer ensured that appropriate fittings were made for the hardware. "On the low-tech side, we had to make sure that the rooms were all sound-proofed - they treat people who snore," said Joe Klocke, project manager. "Noise had to be confined within each bedroom." He continued, "another interesting thing on this job was that although we were building sleeping quarters with baths, there were no windows and no built-in closets - two big features of residential bedrooms."

Dr. Shives got bids from three builders, and she decided to go with Meyer & Meyer based on the company's competitive bid, a recommendation from a previous Meyer & Meyer health-care client, and good feelings she had from the comprehensive quote package presented to her. Having been involved in unpleasant construction projects previously, Dr. Shives appreciated that there were workers on the job daily, that all budget variances were justifiable and kept to a minimum, and that Meyer & Meyer adhered to the schedule, allowing her to open her clinic when expected.

It was a major project over which Dr. Shives lost no sleep.