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Creature Comforts

By Patty Tascarella



Daniel Rothschild, a principal at Rothschild Doyno Architects, stands in the employee bookstore-style cafe located in the firm's new Strip District headquarters.

When moving into a new office space, local companies are pulling out all the stops to create a hospitable atmosphere for staff members who work long hours. From a bookstore style cafe to a rooftop driving range, here's a look at the creative ideas these firms are adopting as they complete their office moves.

Rothschild Doyno Architects: Bookstore-style Cafe Relaxes Employees

Architects love the challenge of designing a new workspace, and when it happens to be their own home turf, it's a chance to pull out all the stops.

For Rothschild Doyno Architects, which moved from Regent Square to the Strip District the first weekend of March, all 13 employees can sip cappuccino and flip through magazines at a bookstore-style cafe of their own.

"It's kind of modeled after (local coffee chain) Crazy Mocha, a client of ours." President Daniel Rothschild said. "It has a kitchenette, dining tables, shelves with books and displays and soft furniture."

For Rothschild Doyno, the 7,000 square-foot building, which is triple the size of its old space, created opportunities for employees to customize their space to their own comfort levels - each

workstation has individual fixtures with additional switches so everyone can adjust the lighting from one to three bulbs.

The building also "acts like a sundial," Rothschild said. "The light rises of 29th street, during noon it dodges to Penn Avenue, and the sun sets over our courtyard patio. It's rare for a building to do that. From the way the light streams in, it makes you aware of what's going on outside."

And vice-versa. Workstation areas are surrounded with collaborative alcoves that Rothschild describes as "mini storefronts" with glass windows that jut onto the sidewalk. Ceilings are eight feet high, half that of Rothschild Doyno's regular workspace, creating a cozy atmosphere. Three alcoves, each feature a table with chairs to accommodate four; the remainder have room for two. Employees can enjoy the natural light and interact with passer-by. "We literally have people tapping on the windows."