

Shedding light on philanthropy

Maria Mottola wanted a light, airy space when the philanthropy she directs was set to move from the Empire State Building. At 10 East 34th Street, the New York Foundation has found daylight and well-organized space in a buildout on the top floor.

“Our client wanted a collegial atmosphere in a space whose simplicity would emphasize its charitable priorities,” said Andrea Zinn, director of interiors for Rosen Johnson Architects. “We had the entire top floor so we could reopen closed skylights and use interior glass walls to distribute natural light to everyone using the space.”

Rosen Johnson Architects worked with Stephen Heyman, president of Realinsight, the owner’s representative, to help the Foundation identify its space needs and design an elegant, durable space within a moderate budget.

“We emphasized the loft-like feeling of the 1920s-era building by limiting dropped ceilings to perimeter offices and boardroom while opening the interior to the original high-beamed plaster ceilings and skylights,” said Zinn.

“Glass walls are employed to create a collegial atmosphere, allow privacy when needed, and promote daylighting throughout the full-floor space.”

Free-standing furniture is used for continuity and flexibility between the offices and open space. Tables in the boardroom can be combined or reconfigured as needed for board meetings and seminars with grantee organizations. A mural created by a Foundation recipient graces the reception area outside the boardroom. ■



Photo by Jock Pottle

A mural graces the Foundation’s reception area.