

A California law firm relamps its offices with the same fervor it employs in the courtroom.



## GOOD LIGHTING HELPS CLIENTS READ THE FINE PRINT

A successful law firm centers on commitment between attorney and client, as well as upon teamwork among the members of the law firm. Since 1954, the Mountain View, Calif.-based firm has advised Silicon Valley executives and local, national, and international companies on a wide range of legal issues, including stock options, labor law, environmental issues, and individual compensation. And it was as a team that the law firm of Newton, Kastner & Rimmel tackled the lighting chal-

lenge it faced in its own offices.

"At Newton, Kastner & Rimmel we provide practical, common sense advice combined with thorough legal preparation," explains founding principal Stephen Newton. "We took this same approach when we decided to retrofit our offices.

"Since our award-winning building was built in 1986, a variety of fluorescent lamps had been used to relamp office space. This created a hodge-podge look and resulted in problems when lamps needed replacement," Newton states. "We de-

cidied to standardize the whole lighting system and began a study of existing lighting technology."

Newton teamed with his lighting maintenance contractor Tadco Supply, located in San Jose, and together they chose to install a new electronic fluorescent lighting system comprised of 576 new 32-watt T8 fluorescent lamps and 260 new MagneTek Triad® B2321120RH reduced harmonic electronic ballasts replaced existing fluorescent lamps and magnetic ballasts.

"We were looking for light qual-



Time for a change – the church's previous Williamsburg chandeliers were not up to the task of illuminating the congregation.

the logo's graphic elements, Donovan created a continuous, illuminated cylinder of rich, white light encircled by a floating, illuminated rim in warm cherry. The secondary details of the pendants were inspired by the subtle Mission styling of the 1928 church. In so doing, the pendants would be evocative of a cruciform shape without being a literal representation.

In addition, the slightly oversized proportions of the new pendants would comfortably diffuse the increased wattage and provide a bright ceiling wash of ambient light, with no need for extra fixtures.

After perusing – and approving – the pendant concepts, the church trustees asked the Donovans to redesign the church's entire interior.

For the overall plan, the Donovans chose to enhance the Arts & Crafts styling of the church by using warm, inviting colors and woods with gently modern design elements in simple geometry. Art Donovan employed architectural details such as wide, flat-cut cherry columns and aprons with hidden cove lighting to highlight the darker, shadowed areas of the church. Everything was done

with an eye toward modesty in image and to enhance the traditional elegance of the structure.

It became apparent that the oversized church organ speakers needed to be relocated in order for the redesign to be successful. For this phase of the project, Donovan sought the expertise of Bob Mulford of East Hampton, N.Y., one of the country's premier ecclesiastic organists, to assess the best placement for the sound of the speakers.

After Mulford had chosen the optimum locations, Donovan created a seamless method for wrapping each speaker cabinet with polished cotton fabric in the exact shade and color of the walls. With invisible interior brackets, he flush-mounted the speakers at the top of the church walls, rendering them completely inconspicuous and without any unnecessary or aggressive renovation.

"The design elements, technical solutions, and materials had to be absolutely appropriate," Donovan explains. "It was most important to maintain the genteel austerity and equity of the interior for the benefit of the congregation and the nature of the religious services."

As a final concept to complete the interior design, Donovan created a center focal point of an 8 ft. x 6 ft. solid cherry decorative plaque on the main wall behind the lectern.

The wall plaque has a subtle cruciform shape that recalls the form of the new pendants. It also contains the church's main Bible quote in polished brass letters, and is complemented left and right by cherry and bronze sconces.

"Everything you design for the church should have some evocative meaning. The two lamps on the wall piece are emblematic of the two church members who stand at the lectern. As these readers illuminate the congregation through scripture, so do the two lamps illuminate the Bible quote on the wall behind them," Donovan comments.

Not surprisingly, the congregation has chosen the Donovans to design the new building that will house the church's reading room. The design firm is also developing the lighting plans for yet another church on Long Island, along with the restoration of an 1845 Greek Revival Masonic Lodge in the historic whaling village of Sag Harbor, N.Y.



ity that would enhance the facilities for our 12 attorneys and support staff, as well as be highly functional for prolonged periods of document review," Newton says. The new lighting system provided exactly what the firm needed.

"The reaction of the partners and staff to the new lighting system has been very positive," Newton comments. "In fact, we decided to retrofit the tenant space on the first floor of the building with the same lamp/ballast package we used in our own offices."

According to MagneTek, the manufacturer of the electronic ballasts used in this project, many companies greatly underestimate the sav-

ings generated from lighting system retrofits and upgrades. Most lighting upgrades save approximately 50 cents per square foot per year, with an average payback of 2.5 years. Lamp design, materials, electronic ballasts, and lighting control systems contribute to lighting efficiency, reliability, and quality. The ballast manufacturer states that with the use of electronic ballasts, the overall efficiency of a lighting system can be improved between 20 and 40 percent on average. According to the company, electronic ballasts are not only more energy efficient with quieter flicker-free operation, but in combination with new fixture designs they can enhance a building's overall aesthetics and environment.

MagneTek Lighting Products Group manufactures ballasts for all lighting applications, including magnetic, electronic, compact fluorescent, HID, sign, and neon. In addition, the company's products are incorporated into the designs of leading OEM lighting fixture manufacturers.