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From the Minneapolis / St. Paul Business Journal:

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Cool Offices

Cool Offices: Law firm expansion, renovation triggers operational changes

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Editor's note: The Business Journal will continue publishing our weekly Cool Offices feature, recognizing that many of these offices may be empty for a while as more companies offer remote-work options for their teams. Hopefully, we'll soon be returning to these "cool" spaces.



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Scott + Hespden Law hit the refresh button in January 2019, when it doubled the size of its previous small office and turned it into a stylish new workspace.

The estate planning law firm had been in the same building since 2001 and discussed expanding for a long time. When it was finally time to make the change it enlisted the help of interior design firm PureAlchemy Design.

The firm knocked out a wall in its existing space, expanding further into its floor of the Specialty Building in St. Paul's St. Anthony Park area. Skylights are located throughout the space. There were two before the expansion; three were added. Coupled with large windows and tall ceilings, light flows easily through the open space.

Stephany Eaton of PureAlchemy Design said the attorneys wanted to have an elegant space. In response, wood accents and plum colors were added.

Behind the front entryway and reception area are all of the offices. The dynamic allows for privacy, said firm partner Jeffrey Scott.

A kitchen, coffee bar and conference room also were added, as well as more offices and rooms for staff.

“From walking in, to get to my office, to get to the clients, to get to the coffee area, it’s just a really beautiful flow,” Scott said.

He noted that the fresh design take had impacts on the workplace beyond having a cool new office. He said it was a change that drove the firm to reinvent itself in other ways, including software upgrades in a push to become paperless.

“It spurred a lot of other important changes that were kind of laying in wait,” Scott said.

With the added space, all-staff meetings have become easier and more frequent, another way that things have changed at Scott + Hespen.

“It was kind of amazing that we were able to operate before we had done the remodel,” Scott said. “It’s a much more comfortable place. I really feel thankful all the time that I’m here that I get to work in this space.”

Business: Estate planning law

Partners: Jeffrey Scott and Amanda Hespen

Employees in the office: About 10

Building name: Specialty Building

Address: 2356 University Ave. W, Suite 400, St. Paul

Office opened: January 2019

Size: 3,000 square feet

Architect: PureAlchemy Design

Do you work in a Twin Cities-area Cool Office? If so, send 12-16 high-resolution photos (Dropbox is best for easy sharing) and a description of the space including its location, size, use, features, technology, employee count, designer and builder to Kim Johnson (kkj@bizjournals.com) for consideration.

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