



JEFF KLAYMAN

AN EMBASSY FOR MAPLEWOOD

MOOSYLVANIA MARKETING RENOVATION

Did you know that Maplewood is the only St. Louis suburb containing the foreign embassy of a mythical kingdom? That's right, just off the city's main drag is the new Moosylvanian embassy. Sounds incredible? I'll explain.

Last year, the owners of Moosylvania, a St. Louis-based promotions and marketing firm, bought the building at 7303 Marietta, renaming it "The Embassy." Working from plans drawn up by architect **Klitzing Welsch Associates**, **Tarlton Corporation** transformed the 80-year-old, three-story church and adjoining 1950s-era school into a modern 31,000-sq. ft. facility with three levels of open work space and conference areas. "This was one of the first churches to be remodeled into a different use so we had challenges working within guidelines that were respectful of the original volume of space while transforming it into a functional office," said **Jennifer Meyers**, Klitzing Welsch project manager. Befitting an embassy, the building is clad in traditional St. Louis redbrick, delicately styled in an understated period ecclesiastical vernacular; it also features two maroon panels containing moose silhouettes, which are symbolic of the mythical kingdom of Moosylvania.

For an 80-year-old building, the exterior masonry was in excellent shape. "We didn't see any issues with the masonry work itself, said **Jeff Freese**, Tarlton project manager. Also, the traditional 50s-era glazed tile on the walls in the school corridors was in good condition and retained wherever possible. "It's holding up fine so we left it place wherever we could," said Freese, noting that **Heitkamp Masonry** did some patching along the corridors where interior walls were ripped out to remove plumbing.

The project, which received historic tax credits, also received a Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Program Certificate of Completion as well as recognition by the city of Maplewood.

The masonry building has held up exceptionally well over its first 80 years. With its extensive renovation in the interior and cosmetic touchups to its exterior, the Embassy is ready to serve for another four generations, mooses and all.

- Architect:** Klitzing Welsch Associates
- Project Manager:** Jennifer Meyers
- Engineers:** KPFF Consulting Engineers, Alkemeyer & Associates
- General Contractor:** Tarlton Corp.
- Mason Contractor:** Heitkamp Masonry
- Brick:** Richards Brick Co.
- Masonry Suppliers:** Brentwood Supply, Raineri Building Material



THE EXTERIOR OF THE OLD CHURCH WAS IN AMAZINGLY GOOD SHAPE BEFORE RENOVATION, A TESTAMENT TO THE ENDURING STRENGTH OF BRICK.



COURTESY TARLTON CORP.

THE PERIOD ECCLESIASTICAL VERNACULAR OF THE WINDOWS WAS MAINTAINED WHILE INSIDE A GUT REHAB COMPLETELY CHANGED THE FEEL OF THE 80-YEAR-OLD CHURCH AND ADJOINING 50-YEAR-OLD SCHOOL.



JEFF KLAYMAN