

spaces

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Message From The President



Scott pictured with key talent from Steelcase who flew into Boise to celebrate the event. (Left to Right) Bonnie Carpenter, Deborah Warren & Anne Chillman

I'm constantly reminded why space matters. A few weeks ago OEC hosted a Casino night at our downtown Boise office where we hosted influencers from architecture, design, commercial real estate, and general contractors. Over 100 guests spent the evening connecting, having fun, eating and drinking, learning (how to play roulette and craps), networking, and transacting business. Not transacting business in the sense of selling chairs. But transacting future business that is built on trust and personal connection. Space brings people together in a way that fosters trust and personal connection; this is something zoom can never do. Sure, zoom is a great tool for having meetings and sharing information. But there really is no replacement for space where you create shared work and personal experiences.

A blue ink signature of Scott Galloway.

Scott Galloway
President

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Stodgy To Stunning

After using the same stodgy
bank furniture for 23 years, it
was time for a change.

In 1998, the three principals of Buffington Mohr McNeal (BMM) opened their doors with a promise to be their client's advocate. McNeal says, "We help our clients make decisions about anything financial. We are their first call." BMM gives their clients the gift of time by doing all the detail work to manage their portfolios. It is this mentality that has earned them loyalty from their clients and has grown their business from managing \$66 million in 1998 to \$800 million today.

When they first rented their space in Boise's Hoff building, the firm had to look like a bank. So, they bought stuffy cherry wood, deep, dark glass tops, credenzas, and leather couches to look the part. Recently, however, Hendricks bought the Hoff building and is changing things. "What they are doing in our space is a lot more than we would have ever envisioned. They took it down to a shell and took everything out of both our current space and the next suite over. That has given us the opportunity to work with CSHQA, the architects, and the Wright Brothers, the GC."

The change could not have come at a better time. Since 1998, BMM's staff has gone from four to twelve employees, and they were busting at the seams. Starting with a clean slate and an additional suite, allowed them to customize the space to meet their specific needs. After their interior designer, Megumi Haus, nailed the colors and floor coverings in her first try (all green and black which conveniently resembles both their logo and the color of money), finding the right furniture became the next important task.

According to McNeal, "We were really impressed



Executive Office
White Board Table

with Michelle (OEC Workplace Consultant) and Rachael (OEC Designer) and their vision for what we were trying to do. They asked us questions about how we were going to use the space which is really important to us. They also had great technology to help us visualize their ideas." Some of those needs included a café, which the staff has never had. The new café is complete with a high-top table and barstools etched with the BMM advisor's alma maters including Michigan State, Georgia Tech, Boise State, and Nevada. "It is going to make that room collegial and a fun place to hang out."

"We give our clients the gift of time and that theme is going to exist throughout the space."
- Carey McNeal



Another important addition is a collaborative space with an artistic flair where BMM's Investment Committee does all its communication and securities trading. It is in a central space between all the offices, so they decided to design a mural for the wall. The mural is a map of the world with time zones on it. "It is a cool visual for the world we live in. We give our clients the gift of time and that theme is going to exist throughout the space."

Although he is biased, McNeal's office is the thing he is most excited about. "I have two locations in my office where I'll be able to meet with clients. One is a very formal setting at a conference table with a monitor, and then another is a living room setting with a couch and a table that is a whiteboard. I wasn't planning on that, but it has made a big difference for me. I imagine using those spaces differently now."

With more beautiful and functional space, the firm is looking forward to going from stodgy bankers to contemporary wealth managers with room for growth. Let's hope that growth helps them also bring their business over the billion-dollar threshold! [oec](#)



World Map Wall Mural



Meeting Room



Work Café &
Etched Stools



Conference Room

VERTICAL

Todd Weltner
VERTICAL Construction
Founder & President



Founder and President of VERTICAL Construction Todd Weltner did not expect to become an entrepreneur. However, after working in the industry for a few years, he realized that he would rather have his own company than be a "corporate" guy. Since 2002, Todd and his team have been doing commercial remodels and tenant improvements, and more recently multi-family projects. Some of his most notable projects include Eberlestock, Fusions, Alavita, Bittercreek, Bardenay(s), Bogus Basin, and the Waterhouse Row townhomes.

"It's a relationship business, and we are building those relationships just like we do people's dreams."

Unlike most companies, Todd is determined to stay lean and mean. "It sounds cliché, but we really just want to work with good people. It is a relationship business, and we are building those relationships just like we do people's dreams. We work for people we trust and who respect what we do and appreciate the advice we bring to the table." Todd likes to work directly with his clients to help them not only accomplish their needs, but also do it within budget.

While VERTICAL is not "everybody's" contractor, they are fortunate to work with many repeat clients. One such client is HUB International, a leading insurance broker in Boise. Fifteen years ago, VERTICAL remodeled the first floor of their building. Today they are reconfiguring the second floor. When finished,

the space will have brand new offices, conference rooms, and a break room complete with Steelcase furniture from OEC.

"Who else gets to, literally, have a hand in making a dream a reality the way we do - a dream that will still be standing when we are all gone?"

By getting involved early in a project, VERTICAL can assist with the design of the project alongside the architects, designers, and business owners to help maximize the spaces. An example of this recently happened at HUB. After gutting the second floor, VERTICAL showed the design team that the ceiling could be raised to nine feet instead of eight, greatly enhancing the feel of the offices and open spaces.

While there have been many curveballs for VERTICAL, Todd is looking forward to a future where the important things remain the same. "As long as we can bring passion and energy to every project, we are not going to change much. We will continue to work with people we like and offer creative solutions to some interesting dilemmas. Who else gets to, literally, have a hand in making a dream a reality the way we do - a dream that will still be standing when we are gone?"

Like any good friend, VERTICAL goes the extra mile to not only minimize costs but deliver the kind of experience that brings clients back fifteen years later. [oec](#)



Back In The Office

OEC talked with Architects and Designers about their experiences returning to the office.



Jennifer Duke-Turner
Designer & PM, HUMMEL ARCHITECTS

What do you like about being back in the office?

The collaboration. There's nothing like physically working near colleagues in a design service industry. While remote we had zoom staff meetings, team calls, but most of the time you were looking at a name on a blank screen because of technological or home office restraints. In the office you can have impromptu chats that solve problems, innovate ideas, saving time and effort. We are able to sustain our workplace culture, which gives employees a feeling of family and commitment to the firm.

What do you appreciate now that you didn't before?

I appreciate my health, watching so many people die from the pandemic, I am grateful to be alive.

What changes have you seen or would you like to see in the future?

The biggest change has been workflow. So many projects were put on hold last year due to Covid, but now our expectations are optimistic for the foreseeable future.



Curtis Hendershot
Principal, TREATORHL

What do you like about being back in the office?

The healthy, competitive nature within an office and the banter between co-workers. I also recognize that many of our intern staff were missing out on critical learning skills that can only be picked up in an office environment. For example, listening to a senior architect on a call with an owner or contractor, understanding how to handle situations effectively, and asking co-workers what they would do in specific situations. These are things that cannot be learned in your home and most likely NOT over zoom calls.

What do you appreciate now that you didn't before?

Last year had lots of bad outcomes, but we should also see that it brought some monumental change in how we all work and interact. It works well when you have senior staff that are dedicated to their jobs.

What changes have you seen or would you like to see in the future?

I would like to see a hybrid approach adopted and in fact that is currently our office policy. We have decided to have two "in office" workdays per week. We recognize that having a MANDATORY back to work policy would drive many of our staff to look for new positions. There most likely will be some very healthy work experiences with this new blended model.



Rachael Ross
Designer, OEC

What do you like about being back in the office?

It is much more conducive to collaborative work especially as a designer. I missed the human interaction with both my coworkers and our clients. The ability to drive clients through their designs in person fosters a better relationship and flow of work.

What do you appreciate now that you didn't before?

I have come to appreciate the products we sell. When I began working at home I was sitting in a chair that lacked many of the ergonomic features of my setup at the office. I came to OEC and picked up a chair and there was an immediate, noticeable difference. Having a height adjustable desk and adjustable dual monitor arms allowed me to work without feeling like my focus and quality of work were being compromised.

What changes have you seen or would you like to see in the future?

Internally, our most notable change has been how we conduct meetings. Rather than in an enclosed space we have been able to utilize many of our open areas. The need for space hasn't gone away, but we are seeing changes in the way it is being used.

Putting Down Roots



PETIQ Headquarters

Pets are a big part of our lives in the U.S. They make us laugh, comfort us when we cry, share in our vacations, and hang with us at home. For many people, they are an irreplaceable part of the family. Pets make life better; that is why PETIQ is making it affordable and convenient for all pet parents to provide their pets with the care they need to live full, healthy lives. With their new headquarters in Eagle, Idaho, they will be able to do that like never before.

Although PETIQ started in Eagle, Idaho, it has since expanded into forty-one states, with twelve hundred manufacturers and five hundred plus distributed medications. In 2017, the company went public and has been rapidly growing since with acquisitions and offerings. After such strong growth, it was time that the company consolidated with a new headquarters. Because the founder and CEO, McCord Christensen, grew up in Eagle, he wanted to give back by putting down roots in his hometown. Fortunately, Eagle had everything that PETIQ needed

to support the endeavor, and in 2019, Cole Architects began drawing the plans.

Unfortunately, things did not progress as smoothly as planned. While the architects almost immediately hit the design spot on, the city of Eagle needed some persuasion to accept a bold, modern design in an otherwise quaint town. Through some heavy negotiating, PETIQ got its modern design, and Eagle got a brick-clad job generator on its main intersection. In the middle of the design negotiations, the country got hit with COVID. The shutdown was an interesting time for PETIQ because while they continued to grow on their product side, they had to shut down their service offerings. Due to the careful planning of their leadership team, they did not lay anyone off and decided to continue the build process.

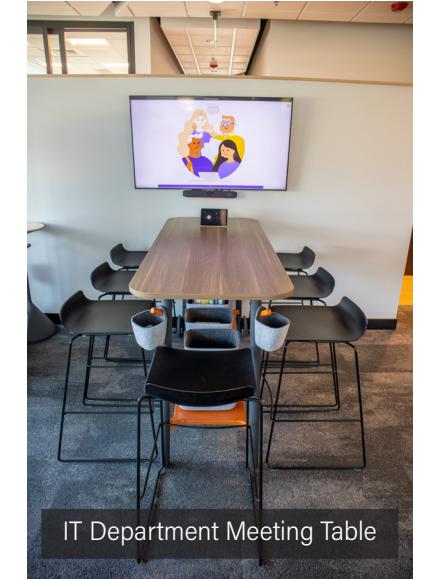
Fast forward to the present, and PETIQ has moved into its beautiful three-story building with a rooftop deck (pictured on the cover). The structure is



Lounge, Cubicles & Volo Walls



Conference Room



IT Department Meeting Table



Atrium Stairway

unique; with a 45-degree break near the centerline, the design capitalizes on the surrounding views. The executive offices and terrace enjoy excellent views of Bogus Basin to the east while staff enjoys waterside views on the patios accessible from the café. An atrium stairway connects all three floors. OEC designed the furniture on each floor to meet the needs of the occupying department. For example, the IT department has an open floorplan with flexible furniture options. In contrast, cubicles and sleek Volo Wall private offices take up a majority of the other spaces.

“We are entrenched here; our roots are here [in Eagle]. We wanted to give back, and this was one way we could give back immediately.”
– Chad Longson

While new employees begin to occupy the building, providing jobs is not the only way PETIQ is making a positive change in Eagle. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the mayor of Eagle shared his appreciation for PETIQ's dedication to the city. Not only would the company's headquarters improve the city's commerce by providing jobs for its residents, but it was also helping the community in a way it was perfectly suited for: building a dog park. When the mayor called Chad Longson, the PETIQ VP of Real Estate, about the dog park, Christensen and the CFO, John Newland, jumped on board right away. “We are entrenched here; our roots are here [in Eagle]. We wanted to give back, and this was one way we could give back immediately.” -Chad Longson.

With a new headquarters, and a new dog park bearing its name, PETIQ is ready to do what it does best, continue growing by helping keep pets around the country happy and healthy. [oec](#)



Kitchen & Café



Lomi Sofa by Bolia

Scandinavian design that creates an atmosphere built on warmth, bold, and luxurious materials



Potrero415 by Coalesse

A refreshing antidote to the traditional conference room table. Whether inside or outside a meeting room, sitting or standing, this table creates a social focal point and comes in a variety of materials, shapes and sizes.

Inspire Wealth Partners
Meridian, ID
Conference Room

We create amazing spaces
where employees love to work



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