

BEST OF
2007
AWARDS

Madison Bank

AWARD OF MERIT: Retail

From the outset, the design challenges for the new 4,200-sq-ft Madison National Bank in Merrick, N.Y. were lofty. Under design requirements, the bank was to provide a pleasing environment for customers. But since it was the first branch for the start-up bank, the distinctive architectural elements were going to be used in future branch design.

Although JRS Architects has designed branches for other banks, past projects had been completed using predetermined corporate standards. "The opportunity to design a start-up bank was exciting for us," says John Sorrenti, founding partner at JRS Architects of Baltimore. "The bank was looking for a design that would be eye-catching but also warm and inviting to its customers. We were able to establish a corporate standard for Madison National Bank which was fun."

The \$2 million branch also needed to be completed on time and within budget. The six-month project lasted from September 2006 to February.

The new branch was constructed on the site of a former Nathan's restaurant, which was demolished along with a portion of the foundation. The new structure utilized a portion of the existing foundation. The parking area was completely redone along with the landscaping, drainage, lighting, curbs and sidewalks.

The branch has eight teller stations, four platform desks, one private office, conference room, kitchen, storage area, ATM, safe deposit boxes/vault, two car drive-up windows, separate entrance for a



night teller and 30-car parking lot. The conference room has liquid crystal glass for privacy.

Architects accomplished the design challenge with inspiration from the late 19th Century American Romanesque buildings of Henry Robson Richardson, who was known for his multicolored brickwork, dramatic arches and round-roofed turrets.

When customers enter the branch, they are in an area that includes a working fireplace, plasma screen televisions and other amenities aimed at creating a warm "living room" atmosphere. Soft curves, fabrics and carpeting with gold and red tones in swirl patterns were selected for the interior.

"We tried to select materials that would give it a warm feeling," Sorrenti says.

Because this branch was the first for Madison National Bank, the project team worked closely with the bank and others to identify the appropriate vendors for the project. <<

Key Players

Owner: Madison Bank

General Contractor: The PARR Organization Inc., Ronkonkoma, N.Y.

Architect: JRS Architect, P.C., Merrick, N.Y.

MEP Engineer: HRM Engineering, P.C., Mineola, N.Y.

Structural Engineer: Koutsoubis, Alonso Associates, P.E., P.C., Hicksville, N.Y.

Civil Engineer: Savik and Murray, LLP, Ronkonkoma, N.Y.