

ARCTURIS

Planning Architecture Interiors Technology Facilities

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Arcturis Project Wins Spirit of St. Louis Award

St. Louis, MO, April 25, 2007..... A major redevelopment project designed by Arcturis for Industrial Aid, a local shelter workshop, has been recognized with the Mayor's Spirit of St. Louis Award. The award honors businesses that make major expansions or improvements in the city that create or preserve jobs, promote Minority/Women's Business Enterprises, or help revitalize neighborhoods. The award will be presented at Industrial Aid on Thursday, June 21, 2007.

Industrial Aid is a packaging company that employs approximately 200 mentally and physically challenged adults who might otherwise have difficulty finding or maintaining employment. The nonprofit organization competes with non-shelter workshop packaging companies.

Arcturis worked with Industrial Aid to design a new, 50,000 square foot addition to its aging facility that dated back to the early 1900s. "Industrial Aid's existing production and warehousing space was extremely inefficient, with close column spacing making it very difficult to accommodate any kind of flexibility with the space," explained Jonathan Emert, project designer for Arcturis. "The ceiling clearance was also very low and made it difficult to maneuver fork lifts and store product."

The new addition emphasizes an open floor plan production space with large structural bays and high ceilings. Natural light from skylights, a state of the art busway duct electrical system, compressed air drops and an efficient duct sox HVAC system also add to the efficiency and improved work environment.

Other enhancements include a two-story entry space for visitors with a new boardroom and new office space. Existing offices, which are now directly connected to the new addition, have also been renovated with new carpet, paint, and a more efficient layout. There are also new break rooms and locker areas for employees, a shared courtyard with outdoor seating and plasma screen TVs.

Plans for a second phase development of 100,000 square feet are now being considered. The total cost of the Phase I project was \$5.5 million, including \$2.5 million in tax-exempt bonds issued by the city's Industrial Development Authority.

"Industrial Aid is a major employer and asset, both to these workers and to the city as a whole," said Emert. "Arcturis is proud to have played a role in helping Industrial Aid make this commitment to stay in the city and greatly improve the work environment."

Arcturis (www.arcturis.com) is a full-service architectural design firm headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. In its 30-year history it is known for award-winning projects locally and nationally. With more than 100 employees, Arcturis provides planning and landscape architecture, architecture, interiors, technology and facilities services for communities, major corporations, higher education, financial institutions and public facilities. Arcturis is a registered Woman Owned Business with the State of Missouri and the State of Illinois and is committed to strengthening the community through philanthropic service.

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