

Amazing before-and-after views of a historic Houston building

It once housed the Star Bottling Works and was renovated and restored from top to bottom

By **Diane Cowen** Published 5:43 pm, Friday, March 24, 2017



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During: The mezzanine-level view shows the opening of the second-story office that once blocked a view of the bell tower.

Chris Manske, interior designer Pamela O'Brien of Pamela Hope Designs and architects Lori Arnold and Ashley LaBauve of Prevot Design Services stood in the 107-year-old Warrant Building and looked around at old glass brick, aging flooring, odd wall colors and lighting and tile choices that haven't been popular in decades.

It's now called the Warrant Building, but began as a site for the Star Bottling Works, the city's oldest soda making and bottling business.

They found green shag carpet over rotting wood, rooms added in where they likely weren't meant to be and green, purple, pink and red cobbled together as a color palette that's not really even a color palette.

But they also saw possibilities.

So they gutted the place down to structural walls and re-imagined how the building would work and the floor plan to support it. With reconfigured space and a lot of new materials they transformed it into a hip, on-trend office building.

Its new foyer has a new, two-plus story bell tower with dark steel I-beams forming a Craftsman-style geometric shape from which an eight-tier helix chandelier dazzles.

Out came rotten wood flooring, chipped tile and worn terrazzo. The staircase got an update with a custom-made rail and new red oak treads.

Everything but structural walls came down and in their place are new touches that make it usable as office space in 2017. There are nods to its past, too, historical photos show Star Bottling in its early days surrounded by dirt rows and horse-drawn delivery buggies. There are other photos showing the factory floor, and at the side entrance there's a niche that holds an iron safe that dates back to 1910.

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