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Environetics Completes Interior Design for Fremont Investment & Loan Headquarters In Six Months, From Programming to Move-in

Fremont Investment & Loan's hallmark – emphasis on relationships and community involvement – reflected in corporate headquarters' warm and inviting environment, use of green materials, and community donations.

LOS ANGELES, Calif., November 7, 2005 – Moving from an office environment to an industrial-style building created a substantial design challenge for Fremont Investment & Loan, particularly because the hallmark of their business success was built around relationships with employees, clients and the community. The firm called on Environetics, a long-time partner, to create an interior architectural design that incorporated sustainable materials and reflected its core values. The new corporate headquarters, completed on a fast-track schedule creates a welcoming professional environment for employees and customers.

“Working with Environetics always gives us the opportunity to inject our vision and essentially our brand into the look and feel of our offices,” said Mark Gordon, CEO of Fremont Investment & Loan. “In our new corporate headquarters, not only did the firm create a highly productive work space, but also one that immediately conveys a sense of trust and community for our customers and employees.”

The design challenge stemmed primarily from the need to create an efficient, warm and inviting work environment from what was originally a cold, cavernous, 104,000 sf of industrial space, in near-record time. From programming through project management, the focus of the project centered on relationships – the relationship employees have with their workspace and employers; the relationship between clients and Fremont, and the relationship Fremont has with the community.

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“Throughout our relationship with Fremont, our understanding of their culture, work and goals has continued to deepen, enabling us to anticipate rapidly changing needs, facilitate communication and expedite each project,” said Rodney Stone, principal in charge for Environetics. “In this case, it not only saved time and money, it further strengthened the most important relationship of all, the one between Fremont and their valued employees.”

Environetics’ close working relationships with Fremont, the contractor, and city officials established a level of trust that allowed the project to progress at an accelerated rate. Prior to starting, the firm met with city officials to clarify requirements and hot buttons. This meeting helped shape the plan which, when presented to the city approval came in only three weeks, allowing the project to start ahead of schedule. By maintaining close contact with the city, following through on promises and giving the contractor the latitude to work independently, Environetics completed what should have been at least a year-long project in six months.

Environetics utilized varying carpet patterns in a single color system to break up the large areas on the first floor of the building. The second level, carpeting employed new designs and a completely different color scheme was used. Additionally, each floor made use of dissimilar styles for the fabric panels on the workstations. By keeping the colors in the same tonal family and by applying accent colors on the walls, Environetics ensured the two levels, while unique, were clearly part of the same overall theme. The lunchroom and courtyard reflected the company’s commitment to its employees’ comfort and contentment, having been designed specifically as in-office retreats. A tropical beach theme with bamboo shades and cabinets, ceiling fans, tiki design floor patterns and a beach mural created a peaceful “get-away” area in the lunchroom, while the courtyard design included contemporary furniture and landscaping resulting in a playful outdoor environment.

Innovative lighting techniques were employed due to the limited number of exterior windows and inability to create additional windows in the building. Glass lights in the offices, authentic and false skylights in the open areas, as well as the use of indirect light created the illusion of natural light, for a more organic, energizing environment.

In keeping with Fremont’s practice of community involvement and the environment, the company donated the old, fully functional light fixtures to a local non-profit, earning Fremont a sizable tax credit while conserving resources and landfill space. The use of alternative, “green” materials from paint to flooring and fabric lessened the overall environmental impact.

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Project Facts

Owned or Rented:	Leased
Type/Function of Space:	Corporate Headquarters
Square Footage/Floors:	2 Floors – 104,000 sf
Number of People:	Approximately 500 people
Team:	
▪ Principal in charge:	Rodney Stone
▪ Project Director/Designer:	Stephanie Boldon
▪ Designer:	Sandra Goda
Scope of Services:	Programming, preliminary plans, design development, document preparation, governmental agencies process, project management
Construction Cost:	\$6,450,000.00
Cost Per SF:	\$62.00
Furniture Cost:	\$2,000,000.00
Contractors/Suppliers/Sources:	
▪ Carpet Manufacturer:	Shaw Contract Group
▪ Electrical:	Anderson & Howard Electric
▪ Flooring Dealer:	Universal Flooring
▪ Furniture Dealer:	Henricksen & Company
▪ Furniture Installer:	Installation 200
▪ Furniture Manufacturers:	Allsteel, National, Davis, Landscape Form, Design Within Reach
▪ General Contractor:	Turelk, Inc.
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- Lighting Manufacturers: Prudential, Linear, Tech-Lighting & Louis Poulsen
- Millwork: AM cabinets
- Motorized Roller Shade: Phillips Draperies
- Mural: David Reid Studio
- Sustainable/Green Products: Paints, carpet, vinyl tiles, cork and rubber base, bamboo counters, fabric for panels and seating

About Environetics

Environetics is a full-service interior architectural design and space-planning firm that specializes in creating unique work environments that improve employee productivity and enhance brand image. Environetics' diverse staff consists of space planners, architects, interior designers, graphic and industrial designers, estimators and CAD drafters, all collaborating to identify client space needs and deliver interior plans for maximum effectiveness, efficiency and design.

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