

INTERIOR APPEAL

POPS
of
COLOR

MARKET FRESH
FURNISHINGS
A Sunny Studio

Flip this over to enjoy
the January/February issue
of Orange Appeal!

ARCHITECTS: J. Thomas Chandler, Ekta P. Desai, Daniel C. Laggan and Daniel M. Tarczynski, SchenkelShultz Architecture

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR: John C. Jennings III, John C. Jennings IV and George A. Kirk, Jack Jennings & Sons

INTERIOR DESIGN: Ted Maines, Jeffrey Miller and Terry Smathers, Ted Maines Interiors

PHOTOGRAPHY: Seamus Payne

THE EDYTH: A PURPOSEFUL & PURPOSE-FILLED PLACE



The Edyth, the new home for the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, is a thoughtful tribute to Mrs. Edyth Bassler Bush, the organization's founder who was a dancer, actor and playwright. Each element of the design, both interior and exterior, is intentional and intended to reflect her mission to alleviate human suffering and to help people help themselves.

Although she was involved in numerous philanthropic activities, it was after the death of her husband, Archibald Bush (then CEO of 3M) that she moved permanently to Winter Park and established the Edyth Bush Foundation in 1966. The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation was later formed in 1973 as a private grantmaking institution creating innovative civic solutions.

“Designed as an inspiring space for people and their big ideas, the two large gray brick walls are the wings of a theater. So, the curtain gets pulled back behind the wings and the actors come across the main stage which is the first floor. Outside is a wonderful plaza that serves as a welcoming red-carpet entrance to the building. There’s nothing quite like it in Winter Park,” says David Odahowski, president and CEO, Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation.

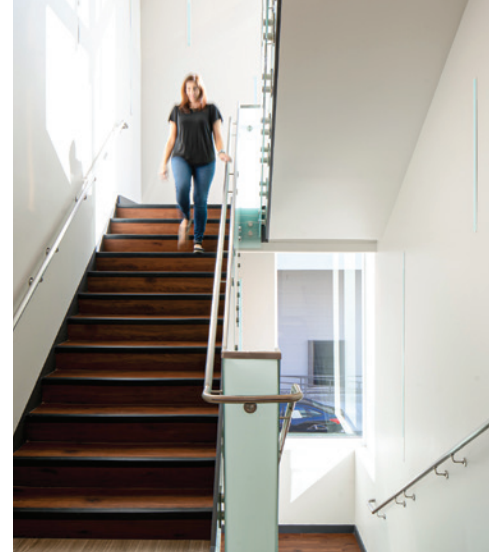
The “curtain” is a three-story wall of glass so the needs of the community can be viewed, and that the community can see the Foundation at work, creating literal transparency. In another nod to Mrs. Bush’s interests, there is a small garden area on the right. The Plaza’s large front retractable glass wall opens up fully to form a seamless indoor/outdoor living room flowing into the Main Stage area — a little over 1,300 square feet of flexible space that can accommodate up to 75 guests for receptions, presentations, luncheons, lectures and fundraisers.

The first floor, dedicated to Mrs. Bush, also features the smaller Showcase Space that can serve as nonprofit pop-up shops, networking area, or a classroom. As a public space, it is open for people to visit and even catch up on emails in semi-private nooks.

“We hope the building will demonstrate to the city that a contemporary building can co-exist very nicely and enhance our reputation for architecture, philanthropy, civic engagement, and how we have a vital downtown. The impact of the building

“It was such an honor to collaborate on The Edyth. Its iconic design melded perfectly with our modernist sensibility at Ted Maines Interiors, and we are thrilled with the result. It was a delight to work with David Odahowski and his team at the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, as well as SchenkelShultz Architecture and Jack Jennings & Sons construction to bring this vision to life. Not only is The Edyth a community treasure but also a design statement that will endure and inspire for many, many years.” –Ted Maines, Ted Maines Interiors





will be revealed over time,” adds David, who explains they could have sold the property housing the 1970s structure, but now with the new building it will remain a civic entity.

The Foundation purchases a piece of art, reflecting the theme of philanthropy, each year at the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival and those are prominently curated and displayed.

The stairwell leading to the second floor, named for Archibald Granville Bush,

features LED lights that can be changed depending on the mood or visiting organizations. There are also two elevators — one for guests and another for staff. The Archibald Innovation Room is 543 square feet and equipped with state-of-the-art technology. It is a space for collaboration and convening and does have access to a serving kitchen. Outside is a balcony that can be used for breaks.

The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation offices are located on the third floor which

features panoramic views of Winter Park and breakout areas for team meetings and idea sharing. With the details and warm atmosphere, it has more of a residential feel and includes comfortable and sculptural furnishings by Sir David Adjaye, Knoll, Herman Miller and Geiger Furniture.

For more information on the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation or to determine nonprofit rental availability of *The Edyth*, visit edythbush.org.

ARCHITECTURAL MISSION

“We wanted the architecture to enhance the institution’s mission — that’s what makes it timeless. It’s really a successful infusion of the mission into the design. That was the goal especially since 2023 will be the Foundation’s 50th anniversary. The charge from David was, ‘we want a project — not a building — that is going to take us into the next 50 years.’ David had a lot of anecdotes, one being about how he put a bench outside the old building to offer a place of repose or rest. We took that idea and thought of the building as a community armature in itself,” says Ekta Desai, partner and design lead, SchenkelSchultz Architecture

But how can the building extend beyond the boundary of the lot lines and do more to draw people in? By reorienting the front doors and extending the building to Cocina 214, it created a catalyst for South Knowles Avenue and what the future can look like. “We took the attributes that were already given to us like the fact that the site has a street on three sides. People would be walking around the building, so we had to take the site into account holistically, and not just design for where the previous building had been,” she adds.

Previously, it was a converted condo building — “no one knew where the front door was; there was no curb appeal, no embracing of the length of the lot. Our mission was to make it more engaging, inspiring and community-oriented as a whole,” she explains.

Another way of connecting *The Edyth* to the rich fabric of Winter Park was through the windows. “There are now views to The Alford Inn, another formidable project for Winter Park. There is a sense that you are in a tight community surrounded by legacy

buildings. Incorporating those sightlines was really important since we were elevating the project,” Ekta continues.

All views were taken into consideration even in the stairwell which affords a view of Central Park. “To be able to see Central Park, the grassroots of the community, from the stairwell — why wouldn’t we take advantage of that? Typically, it would have been fully enclosed,” she says.

But one of the most important elements of the exterior design was made possible through the mutual partnership. “The fact that the Foundation trusted us with using the iron manganese spot brick was huge because there is a lot of Spanish-Mediterranean architecture [in the area]. The idea of it being a theater and a civic stage was fully revealed when they saw how it fades into silhouette at night. The brick serves to spotlight the human interactivity — and that’s what activates a space and this foundation,” she adds.

