

DAVIS PARTNERSHIP ARCHITECTS

2901 Blake Street #100, Denver, Colorado 80205



Architect: Unknown

Year Built: 1927

The two buildings at 2875 and 2901 Blake Street have come to be known jointly as the Bindery, a name derived from the book binding equipment used by Eastwood Printing when they occupied the buildings in the latter half of the 20th century. The building at 2875 Blake was built in the 1990s. Before this, 2901 Blake, where Davis Partnership Architects now resides, stood alone on the site for some 65 years. Originally, a steel foundry called Magnus Metals occupied 2901, then it was a warehouse before being converted to a print house. The single-story, 46,000-square-foot rectangular building changed little until the print house left and it was repurposed by OZ Architecture in 2014.

A riveted steel frame holds a flat roof a full 30 feet overhead where steel-sashed clerestory windows provide natural light to large interior bays. The outside is clad in unassuming brick in common bond as is typical for warehouse vernacular. Every sixth course of brick is laid as headers, that is, turned 90 degrees, to help stabilize the masonry walls. Fixed windows and storefront door assemblies are placed regularly along the Blake street façade. At the rear of the building on the northwest façade the remains of the original Magnus Metal sign can be seen painted near the roofline.

Facing southwest towards the parking lot between the two Bindery buildings the entrance to Davis can be found behind new overhead doors and storefronts added to increase natural illumination.

Inside, Davis' concept for their office juxtaposes the near century-old building with a modern interior. Davis describes their design concept as inserting crisp, white boxes in the old industrial shell. The contemporary office design uses a combination of private and public work areas and flex space to encourage a dynamic work environment. A large green wall is prominently placed opposite the entrance.

Sustainability was a priority for the office. It achieves LEED Gold certification largely through modification of the outdated and wasteful building envelope with high efficiency windows and upgraded mechanical and electrical systems that use displacement ventilation and daylight harvesting.

References

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