



Company: PLaN Architecture

Lead Designers: Nathan Kalaher, AIA of PLaN Architecture

Description of the Firm: PLaN Architecture is a nationally recognized architectural design firm with a strong focus on community activism.

Project Client & Summary: Pioneer Bank, Dakota Dunes, SD

Pioneer Bank approached us to create a bank space that doesn't feel like other banks. They were looking for a sense of excitement and surprise while still providing comfort and convenience to their customers.

The project is an interior build-out within a one-story office building in Dakota Dunes, SD. To design the space we worked with the Owner to think about what are the quintessential experiences of a bank from the customer's perspective – such as the teller counter, the table where you may wait or fill out a deposit slip, the lobby chairs you sit in while waiting and the safe deposit box area. With that list of customer-based spaces we developed a design scheme that created strong features for those elements that will be remembered.

From the moment one walks into the space you understand this bank is different than most. There was a concerted effort to use glass walls to create a sense of openness to add to the feeling of being welcome. There is a very open floor plan that has only customer-based spaces floating within it such as the teller line or the vault containing safe-deposit boxes.

Materials Used:

- Walls: White sheetrock for added light and art display. Black-stained cedar siding to provide warmth and texture.
- Cast-concrete is used at the vault to provide a sense of permanence and security.
- Lighting: All lighting is LED, energy efficient. The lighting used throughout the main lobby is a system of linear pendants.

Process Description: In working with a client that truly understands what both the staff and the customers get out of such a space we were able to distill the bank down to its core elements and develop the other support spaces literally around those. So not only does the bank as a business state that they put the customer first, but the space puts the customer needs front and center as well.

One of the concerns with the space is balancing the rough exposed elements of a sheek office space with warm and elegant elements. In the end we used combinations of cold and warm materials such as concrete and wood, and we used dark and light colored surfaces to play off of each other. In working with the electrical engineer and the owner we designed creative lighting scenarios to accent the various colors, textures and forms within the space.

Final Project Description: In the end, in no small part due to the creativity of the Bank as well, we were able to help design a space that is rather unique for a bank and that is considerate of those who use the space.





