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The Lights are Back on at the Historic Fort Worth Power & Light Building
*Growing Consulting Firm Says their Renovated 1929 Space
is the Perfect Place for Bright Ideas*

Fort Worth -- When the Fort Worth Power & Light Building opened in 1929 it was at the height of a boom for downtown Fort Worth that included a number of glamorous buildings and a thriving, vibrant theatre district.

But over the years, the Art Deco treasure located at 410 W. 7th Street fell victim to corporate closings and the demise of downtown theatre. For the last several decades only an occasional tenant has brightened the doorsteps, and for the most part, the once grand lobby has remained dark.

But that all changed this fall as the building opened its doors to new tenants. Two companies: a forward-thinking employee benefits consulting firm called Johnston & Matthews, and its sister company, eTekhnos, took up residence in the space in October.

Brent Matthews, and his partner Bill Johnston, are both men of vision and when they saw an opportunity to work every day in a great space, they grabbed it. With help from TUSA Office Solutions of Fort Worth and a long list of specialty contracting firms, the building's historic lobby has received a renovation. Today it's an eclectic and attractive space that gives the growing firms and their employees plenty of room to roam.

"We had outgrown our offices in the Fort Worth Club and were looking around downtown to find a suitable spot. Someone suggested this historic building, and although the idea was interesting, we weren't sure the space would suit us. All it took was to step inside and see the high ceilings and bright light from the huge windows, and I was sold," explains Matthews.

Today employees are enjoying their historic new work space. The windows and light do make the space feel large, open and airy. The principal design element remains eight huge Greco-Roman columns which decorated the lobby where early electric customers paid their bills. The original crown moldings have been freshly painted to frame the high curved ceiling. Cubicles, conference areas and computer rooms fit gracefully and unobtrusively into the space.

“This office space really is one to admire. The curved ceiling is a very special feature, and the structural columns were influenced by Greco-Roman architecture. Their Corinthian capitals add a high design element that we didn’t try to compete with. We used a simple but sophisticated color scheme of browns and taupes and brought in texture and modern features through the furniture,” says Christy Foster of Tusa Solutions.

“It’s a nice dichotomy to be in a building this historic and charming doing the kind of high tech work we’re doing,” Johnston says.

Along with eTeknos, Johnston & Matthews has developed a reputation for forward thinking and innovative implementation of employee benefit programs. e-Teknos develops customized web portals that offer internet-based benefits management to both Johnston & Matthews clients and other insurance and employee benefits firms.

“I talk to people all over the country, and there are some nice places out there. It’s nice to be in Fort Worth, Texas in a really special place. It definitely aids creativity, it’s a great place for meetings. There really aren’t many places that are this cool,” says Ellen Benson, Creative Director.

With its new tenants, the Fort Worth Power & Light Building is once again bustling with activity. Matthews and the rest of the staff can’t wait to show off the space to clients and vendors. Johnston & Matthews will host an “unveiling” of the space with a party and celebration in late November.

For more information about Johnston & Matthews, visit www.johnstonandmatthews.com. For information on eTeknos, visit www.eteknos.com. 817 336 6444. -end-



About Johnston & Matthews

J&M was established in 1997 to provide companies of all sizes with customized employee benefit programs and value-added services. Serving companies from 10 – 4000 employees, the firm has established a national reputation for excellence through its Strategic Benefit Advantage™ program, which takes a multi-year approach to developing insurance and benefit programs that meet the specific needs of client businesses. www.johnstonandmatthews.com

Photographers Welcome, call 817 336 6444.

Contractors Responsible for Renovation 410 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth

Johnston & Matthews Contact: Ellen Benson, 817 336 6444

TUSA Office Solutions Contact: Christy Foster, 817 204 0659

Christy was responsible for interior design, project management, and office furniture and accessories. She also coordinated many of the specialty services that were required for a historic building.



Other contractors:

- Affinity Millworks, Inc. (Painting)
- Agility (Phones)
- Atlantis Services (Plumbing)
- Barrow Electrical and Lighting Supply (Electrical)
- Brinks Security (Alarm/Security)
- Eclipse Systems (Signage)
- Fast Signs (Signage)
- Floor Partners in Design (Floors)
- Maxx Datacom (Voice and Data Wiring)
- Southwell Co. (Historical Markers)

