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»DESIGN SHOWCASE 2014

THE ARCHITECTS



JAMES R. MEYER, AIA
 Lean Arch, Inc.
 530 S. Spring Street, 6th Floor In Los Angeles
 213-744-9830
 info@leanarch.com | leanarch.com

DESCRIBE THE PROJECT YOU HAVE FEATURED.

845 S. Figueroa Street was originally constructed in 1958. The five-story concrete structure had been vacant for nearly 20 years when we were commissioned to “open” the building on the north and west elevations to allow for more natural light. Working with Greenworks Studio to determine the amount and quality of daylighting and direct sun exposure on the building, and with Nabih Youssef Structural Engineers to utilize state-of-the-art carbon fiber wrap technology, we were able to deliver a cost-effective, seismic retrofit solution that included expansive new window openings. For the interior, our client, The State Bar of California, wished to achieve a cultural shift through the layout and design. The result is a contemporary building with an interior that combines a sophisticated level of departmental organization with a mature palette of finishes—promoting workflow, productivity and efficiency in the work place.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF LEAN ARCH?

Lean Arch, Inc. started as a small design studio in Manhattan Beach and has evolved into a Los Angeles-based, award-winning design/build practice with a global perspective. Over the past 12 years, Lean Arch has overseen the design and execution of residential, commercial and tenant improvement

projects throughout the Los Angeles area. We have received several awards and have been published extensively in the U.S. and abroad. We are currently working on our first monograph, *LEAN ARCH: Some Assembly Required*, which describes our approach to the design/build process.

WHAT MAKES YOUR FIRM UNIQUE IN THIS INDUSTRY?

Our clients are special. They tend to be very engaged throughout the entire process. By nurturing this type of collaboration, we find that the process is filled with potential opportunities to genuinely improve upon the original design and enhance the quality of the overall project. Principal architect and founder James Meyer consistently creates opportunity from compromise by maintaining focus on the big picture. All projects, regardless of size or scope, are indicative of the design principles adhered to by the firm—especially those relating to context, scale and sustainable building concepts.

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR YOUR FIRM?

Lean Arch has recently relocated to our new office space on Spring Street in Downtown Los Angeles. We are excited to be part of this growing community, dubbed Gallery Row. Over the last three years, we have seen a real increase in our commercial work and are proud to be working with the ad agency 72andSunny on their new office space in Playa Vista. In addition, we are working with the Western Veterinary Group to design their new animal hospital, and we have recently begun working on new office buildings for The L&R Group (WallyPark, Joe's Auto Parks).

