

UNDERFLOOR SERVICE DISTRIBUTION

by Tate

City of Houston Permitting Center
Houston, TX

GOVERNMENT RENOVATION PROJECT

160,000 access floor sq ft

Products Used:

CCN 1000

CCN1250

Modular Wiring/Cabling

Underfloor Air Distribution



City of Houston Permitting Center

Step inside the City of Houston Permitting Center on Washington Avenue and you enter a representation of the city's dedication and commitment to its citizens, employees, their education and their future. From its location and use of space, energy efficiency and aesthetic appeal: this building was truly created with its users in mind. The City determined the building which housed the majority of Building Code Enforcement activities was too small, not energy efficient, with minimal amenities for customers and employees. Other permitting activities were housed in multiple locations so customers seeking permits often had to drive from location to location.

The new Washington Ave. permitting center houses the majority of the City of Houston's permitting activities in one location. The city's goal was to create a user-friendly central permitting building, using retail principals to greet applicants and provide a welcoming environment. All departments were to be housed in one building and for the first time, 90 percent of the permits necessary to do business in the city would be available under one roof. To speed the process, accounting was centralized, modeled after retail sales and inventory systems. The building would also house the Green Building Resource Center, an educational "shop-and-learn" environment.

Why did the City of Houston choose to renovate/rehabilitate an old building over new construction?

Andrew Icken, from the City of Houston, came to Studio Red with the question of whether it would be more financially efficient for the city to purchase and reuse an old building he had seen, or engage in a new construction project on their previous lot. The analysis and comparison of the old warehouse and of new construction on their existing site indicated that a rehabilitation would come out to about 75 percent of the cost of starting from scratch.

All floors have an open space plan, which along with the installation of a raised flooring system, allows full flexibility for the client to adjust and change the space according to their needs. Through this flooring system, electrical requirements can be easily manipulated, as well as individual control of heating and cooling through adjustable floor grills. Therefore, the overall system can be set at the minimum requirements while the city benefits from an energy efficient system. To help promote a healthy working environment, the open plan also allows for daylight access and views to the exterior for all employees working from the building.

TATE AUTHORIZED DEALER

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Houston, TX

ARCHITECTURAL FIRM

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