

BUSINESS

Muhlenberg Greene Architects moves into new, permanent home

The company celebrated its move into the former ROG Orthodontics building on Penn Avenue in Wyomissing.



MG Architects now occupies the former ROG Orthodontics building at 1268 Penn Avenue in Wyomissing. (Courtesy of MG Architects)



By **KEITH DMOCHOWSKI** | kdmochowski@readingeagle.com | Reading Eagle

UPDATED: December 10, 2024 at 10:05 AM EST

Muhlenberg Greene Architects has spent over a century designing buildings that have withstood time like few others.

The architectural firm has masterminded some of Berks County's most notable structures, like Stokesay Castle and the Medical Arts Building in Reading.

But after 104 years of building home bases for businesses and more, MG Architects had yet to settle into its own permanent home.

That all changed Dec. 4., when the company, for the first time, cut the ribbon on its very own building.



MG Architects cut the ribbon Dec. 4 on their first ever permanent location at 1268 Penn Avenue in Wyomissing. (Courtesy of MG Architects)

MG Architects held a ceremony and open house celebrating the move to 1268 Penn Ave., the former location of ROG Orthodontics.

“Since the 1970s we’ve leased (buildings),” said Scott Graham, co-owner of MG Architects. “Before then, the operating mode was usually we were working on a building, so we negotiated office space within that building.”



00:00

00:24



He said the firm had spent time at multiple locations in downtown Reading, before moving to a suite in the Wyomissing Professional Center in 2015.

MG officials said they chose to buy the former ROG building because it provides much needed space for the team to grow.

ROG now occupies 840 Penn Avenue, formerly a Santander Bank.

The firm also chose the space to honor the architectural principal of adaptive reuse, or renovating an old building to serve a new purpose.

The concept became mainstream in the 1960s and 70s, around the same time that company founders Fred Muhlenberg and Larry Greene were emerging as a local architectural force, said Suzanne Cody, MG Architects director of business development.

“We tried to reuse as much as possible,” Graham said. “We bought the building because we liked the character to begin with...it was a fairly easy fit.”

He said the space that formerly housed orthodontic workstations became the company’s new drafting floor, and it already had the private offices the company was looking for.

“We came across a few interesting aspects of the building as we started tearing things out...had some nice framing that we left exposed, because we liked to see the guts of the building,” Graham said.



MG Architects aimed to preserve the distinct character of the former ROG Orthodontics building during its renovations. (Courtesy of MG Architects)

Other renovations included typical life cycle upgrades like new paint and finishes, and new windows.

To complete the renovation, MG Architects joined forces with D&S Elite Construction Inc., Amity Township.

Joseph Delibertis, president of D&S Elite Construction, said the work was done in close collaboration between the two companies.

“Together, MG Architects and D&S Elite Construction Inc. are leading the way in demonstrating how local collaboration can yield positive results for our community,” Delibertis said in a press release. “This partnership was about more than just building structures; it’s about building community.”

Jim Sarro, co-owner of MG Architects, said he was proud to work with D&S and demonstrate how collaboration between local businesses can generate positive results.

“Local partnerships are key to keep our local economy vibrant and future focused, and now we can demonstrate successful infill development with our own headquarters, right on Penn Avenue,” Sarro said.

Interior renovations have been taking place at the site over the previous six months, Cody said.



Interior renovations to MG Architects new location were done in collaboration with D&S Elite Construction, Inc., of Amity Township. (Courtesy of MG Architects)

The company isn't planning any additions to the building at this time, Cody said, noting that the existing space will allow for the hiring of additional staff.

"We're about 15 (employees) right now," Graham said. "We're probably looking to hire on another design staff and a senior architect."

Graham encouraged interested candidates to get in touch with the firm.

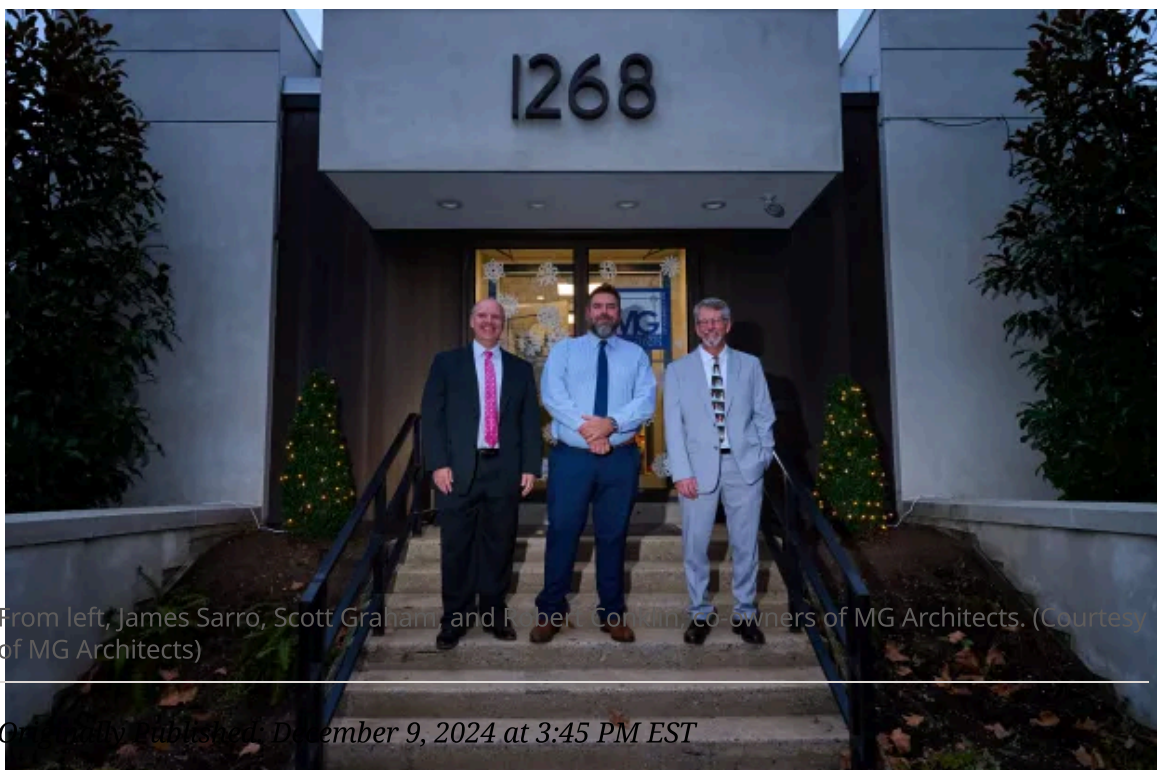


MG Architects' new office space hosts the company's roughly 15 employees, and the firm is looking to hire. (Courtesy of MG Architects)

For now, the company is easing into its new HQ.

"It feels good (to be moved in)," Graham said. "We're architects, we don't know how to say 'it's done,'...but we're really excited to have a permanent home."

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, the company held an open house, as well as a toy drive, featuring Freddy Vasquez, founder of FXV Digital Design, who helped collect toys for AWESOME TOY DRIVE.



From left, James Sarro, Scott Graham, and Robert Corbin, co-owners of MG Architects. (Courtesy of MG Architects)
