

# BREAKING GROUND

IDEAS & INFORMATION YOU CAN BUILD ON

WINTER 2011



*The Hamstra Group has completed remodeling projects for Lafayette Bank & Trust facilities in Demotte, Ind., Lafayette, Ind., and Rensselaer, Ind. Photo left shows Lafayette Bank before remodeling. The new exterior design (right) gives the branch an updated look. The Hamstra Group construction plan ensured customers were served during the remodeling.*

## Remodeling To Bank On

**R**emodeling a bank is one of those projects that requires flawless staging. That's what the outstanding team of Lafayette Bank & Trust, Schwarz Associates-Architects, and The Hamstra Group has achieved on more

than one recent rehabilitation challenge.

Recently completed is a total remodeling of Lafayette Bank's Elston branch. This project called for installation of a new truss roof system with architectural shingles, a new fascia system, and demolition of existing windows and replacement with new, larger windows. In addition, the main entrance doors were relocated. A full remodel of the interior space, including new flooring, wall coverings along the teller line, new ceilings and attractive lighting, gives the branch a fresh, updated appearance.

The bank remained open during the work, necessitating detailed staging plans that accommodated customers as well as the construction process.

"Business continuity was a prime

directive," explains Gary Bussell, a Lafayette Bank property manager whose work involves both new construction and facility renovations. "You can only work on so many things at a time, but with a good team things run very smoothly."

The team at the Elston branch included Bussell, Lafayette Bank's David Sharp, branch manager Megan Fields, architect Rick Schwarz and Hamstra Group project manager Curt Albertson, as well as Hamstra staffer Bill Dykstra. Together, they coordinated service to bank customers as well as adherence to project timetables and costs to maximize efficiency and minimize disruption.

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*The Elston branch of Lafayette Bank & Trust was completed in December; improvements included installation of a new truss roof system with architectural shingles, a new fascia system and new, larger windows. A full remodel of the interior space, including new flooring, new ceilings and attractive lighting, gives the branch a fresh, updated appearance.*

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*Above left: For Lafayette Bank's Rensselaer location, remodeling involved separation of two structures, a total gut of the interior, a relocated teller line and construction of new offices. Center: Improvements to branch banks included many interior renovations, and often construction of new drive-thru facilities. Right: Business continuity was a prime directive, according to Gary Bussell, a Lafayette Bank property manager. Projects are carefully staged to accommodate customers as well as construction.*

## Remodeling... *continued from page 1*

"We had a great working relationship," says Bussell. "That's the main reason this worked so well."

Branch manager Fields agrees. "Every day we got closer to a finished look, while comfortably serving every customer who came to the door," she says.

This was the third project that The Hamstra Group has undertaken for Lafayette Bank. In 2009, the bank's Rensselaer, Ind., branch—a turn-of-the-century structure—was completely renovated.

"Rensselaer was a complex project that required separation of two buildings, major restoration work and thorough updating," Bussell says. "The work we did allowed us to sell one structure, as well as enjoy the benefits of a completely renovated bank branch in Rensselaer."

Albertson says the Rensselaer project was a true test of rehabilitation skills. "That project involved a total gut of the interior, a relocated teller line and new offices with large, wood-trimmed windows," he says. "The result was a thoroughly modern banking facility with the exterior appeal of a picturesque historic building."

In 2008, the same team worked on an interior renovation of the bank's branch facility in Demotte, Ind.

All of these projects, according to Albertson, illustrate the value of a team that is high-functioning.

"Everyone involved is committed to the highest quality work, to coordinating for maximum efficiency and to serving client needs," he says. "Our excellent working relationship is the most valuable tool we have on the job."

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## Our New Year's Message

As a business, we are grateful for our dedicated, hardworking employees, outstanding building team partners, supportive corporate friends and, of course, our loyal clients, who are the reason our company exists. On behalf of everyone at The Hamstra Group, we hope you had a safe and healthy holiday and wish you a new year filled with happiness, hope and great opportunity.



**We're doing our part.** This newsletter is printed on environmentally-friendly paper—50% recycled, using 25% post-consumer waste, and is composed of a mixture of fibers from certified forests, post-consumer recycling processes and fibers from other controlled sources.



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