

# The *Art of Living* Office Environment



*The master in the art of living makes little distinction between his work and his play, his labor and his leisure, his mind and his body, his information and his recreation, his love and his religion. He hardly knows which is which. He simply pursues his vision of excellence at whatever he does, leaving others to decide whether he is working or playing. To him he's always doing both.*

*- James Michener*

## History of *The Art of Living Building*



The Art of Living Building, formerly known as the Moloney Electric Building, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 28, 2002.

In 1903, the Moloney Electric Company, a small AC power electric company, built the original south side of the building. This company was an innovative pioneer in the development of transformers and other electrical products, many of which were introduced and used at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. The company continued to be successful and needed to

expand. The north side of the building was built approximately seven years later to allow for this expansion. The building remained the Moloney Electric Building until the 1940s, when the Allen Food Company purchased it. At this time, the building served as a food distribution warehouse for the metropolitan St. Louis area. In the early 1960s, the building became the Mercantile Merchandise Mart, which sold surplus tents and camping supplies.

### Making a Statement

In 2004, the building was purchased and renovated in the spirit of the St. Louis downtown redevelopment, admiration for the building's historical significance and the desire to "make a statement" about the future of business in America. In today's business environment, we are loudly flying through the Information Age while we quietly exit the Industrial Age. This new economy, while smack dab in our face everyday, is still lagging in potential because we are slow to define it, embrace it, accept it, exploit it and accelerate it. The most highly regarded economists agree, in this environment,



business success is dictated more by "thinking" than "building". Therefore, transforming a factory of machine goods into a factory of thinking was both metaphorically significant and a foregone conclusion for the developer, Anthony, Allan & Quinn, Inc. (AAQ). AAQ (and its offspring "The Incubation Factory") use the space not only as their headquarters but also as an incubation facility for new startup companies and tenants who cater to this new world thinking.

The Art of Living building is a beautiful combination of historic and state-of-the-art contemporary design, which fosters creativity and excellence. Common spaces and the wealth of services result in an environment that caters to the individual, team, company and cross-company collaboration to enhance the common goals of everyone. The design enables a very functional workspace. At the same time, the vision of the Art of Living building includes an aesthetic that provides a workspace that is energetic, warm and homelike. An environment the staff will find hard to leave at the end of a day.



Companies who choose to live in this new "factory" are companies who cater to an environment of thinking which accelerates the development of business, in much the same fashion of the industrial age "assembly line" for goods. Tenants cater to an "assembly line of thought" to purposely transform the "art of business" into a science of business model development, and as equally important, transforming the industrial age thinking of a "job" into the "Art of Living".