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December 22, 2010

Out of the Box

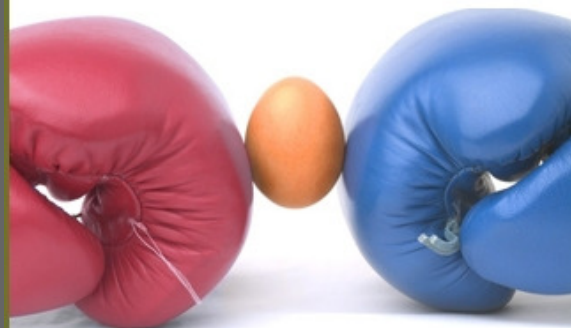
Cool Spaces, a TV show about the most **provocative architecture** of the 21st century, has been short-listed by PBS. An e-mail from you showing your interest in this program will help **get it on the air**. Send PBS an [email](#). More info [here](#).

Next time you're in the freezer aisle, ask yourself if it'd be a good spot for a corner office. **Englewood Construction** (which specializes in retail build-outs), has turned a **family owned grocery store** into its new HQ in downtown Lemont.



The 12-year-old company purchased the **14k SF** store for less in mortgage payment than it would have paid in rent at its former **Schiller Park** industrial office building. Englewood's **Kim Sawyer**, **Bill Di Santo**, and **Chuck Taylor** showed us around their **new digs** on Monday. Each employee picked their office wall colors from a palette based on a **painting of a Mandarin duck** that Chuck hung in the reception area, giving the space a Prairie style color and feel. Englewood is trying to earn **LEED cert** for the space; it reused all the office furniture from its former space and is a two-minute walk from the **Metra to downtown** Chicago. They even cut the old conference table into two smaller tables, one for their **war room** where proposals are pitched and one for a small conference room.

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Here's Bill in his new office. Englewood employees did all of the carpentry themselves from **locally sourced materials**. While Englewood has built many stores on Michigan Ave, including the new **American Girl** at WaterTower Place and **Zara**, about 65% of its business is **out-of-state**, so being downtown wasn't essential for the company's **18 office employees**. Right now, it's working on stores for **Michael Hill** and American Girl throughout the country.



This **bar** proved to be the most popular new addition at the company holiday party two weeks ago. An **in-house gym** complete with shower, and a kitchen with stovetop, oven, and full-sized dishwasher round out the building's amenities. Chuck says he can hardly believe the office had **check-out lines** in it just four months ago, when Englewood bought the property from a family owner who had **closed** the store more than two years ago.

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