



CASE STUDY

Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation — Winter Park, FL

DORMA Glass Hardware Allows for Open Interior & Abundance of Natural Light.



About The Project

Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation, a charitable organization supporting non-profits in Central Florida, wanted a more positive and collaborative office environment.

Architect Wes Featherston, AIA, LEED, AP, of Process Architecture, LLC in Orlando, Florida, worked with the Foundation to achieve its project goals. As a result, he selected DORMA products as an integral part of his design.



Project Goals & Challenges

The 3200 sq ft space chosen by the Foundation for its new offices was adjacent to a building that blocked the sun. Given the space's orientation and location, the challenge became how to maximize the amount of daylight throughout the entire space.

According to Richard Strauss, Executive Vice President and Treasurer of the Foundation, "We didn't want offices that were dark and uninviting. Being on the west side of the

building and very close to a parking garage that blocks the sun, we didn't enjoy a lot of natural light. After visiting the Bush Science Center at Rollins College and seeing its state-of-the-art glass interior design, I thought it was worth exploring glass walls and doors as a way of leaving in more sunlight and providing a more engaging environment throughout our office."

Strauss also shared that the glass front design of Apple stores influenced his

decision to consider glass for the Foundation's office.

"The design for the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation project called for an open, modern workplace that would benefit from an abundance of natural light," explained Featherston. "The primary challenge for the design team was that all natural light entered the space from the perimeter wall, which was to be lined with private offices. Thus, these offices needed to balance the requirement for

transparency with the individual needs for privacy."

Strauss shared that the facilities team found a window treatment, Mecho shades, that let in light while obscuring the view from both inside and out. Used on most of the offices within the Foundation's space, they provide privacy without obstructing the flow of natural light.





DORMA's Solutions

According to Featherston, "The design team selected DORMA and its glass interior solutions because of their ability to achieve over 70 feet of continuous glass wall without bulky hardware or intermediate structure. DORMA's high quality, minimal hardware worked well to support the design concept of the space."

DORMA products used in the project

- RP Header with RTS 88 Overhead Concealed Door Closer
- DRS Tapered Rails
- Dri-Fit® Glazing System
- TG 9387 Pulls

Results

"By allowing for a large expanse of glass, an abundance of natural light is allowed to permeate the space through the private offices," shared Featherston. "The combination of DORMA's glass interior solutions with innovative measures for privacy allowed the design team to balance the needs for both transparency and privacy, while still being able to deliver a modern, naturally-lighted office environment."

Strauss agrees.

"With the glass, shades, and light color scheme, I feel our offices now give us a mental lift," shared Strauss. "I worked for many years at companies with dark desks and dark colors all around. While some of the staff members were used to the solid walls and wooden doors of the older style of office, most have adapted to the new approach. Visitors and most of our staff like the openness of the glass, the lighter colors, and the option of privacy via the shades. We now enjoy a more modern, fresher look that's light and upbeat."

Quick Facts

Project Type
Office



DORMA Products

- RP Header with RTS 88 Overhead Concealed Door Closer
- DRS Tapered Rails
- Dri-Fit® Glazing System
- TG 9387 Pulls

Size
3,200 sq ft

Architect
Wes Featherston - Process Architecture, LLC



PREMIUM ACCESS SOLUTIONS & SERVICES

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