

## SOUTH CENTRAL'S BEST OF 2007 AWARDS

### Legacy Bank, Springdale, Ark.

#### Best Private Building Project

The exterior façade of Legacy Bank is composed of 1,300 pieces of custom fabricated porcelain enamel metal panels and 155 panels of glass.

This unique porcelain panel system required critical alignment and dimensional accuracy had to be held to high tolerance on all elevations of the building. Each corner of the building was measured and marked vertically with a laser to ensure the panel horizontal joints lined up around the entire building perimeter.

Similar laser work was done for horizontal layout to guarantee each vertical joint also lined up precisely. The laser grid system was maintained for several

months during panel fabrication and subsequent erection.

Visible from the exterior, the interior boasts a 43-ft tower that houses the elevator. The elevator is surrounded by 23,000 1-in by 1-in glass tiles and a curved glass-encased stairway with granite steps. These features add a high-end finish to the architectural design.

The main stair from the first to second floor is a spiral stair with each step made of cantilevered, pie-shaped, steel covered with marble treads. The inner stair wall is covered with 1-in-sq ceramic tile top to bottom. The exterior wall to the outside is curved glass curtain wall framing.



CLIFTON LOFF PHOTOGRAPHER

#### Key Players

**Owner:** Legacy National Bank, Springdale, Ark.

**Contractor:** MAY Construction, Bentonville, Ark.

**Cost:** \$5.4 million

**Architect:** Ken Shireman & Associates, Fayetteville, Ark.

**Engineer:** Crafton, Tull, Sparks & Associates Inc., Rogers, Ark.

## SOUTH CENTRAL'S BEST OF 2007 AWARDS

### Innovation Depot, Birmingham, Ala.

#### Best Commercial Project

Innovation Depot is a business incubation facility and program that focuses on the development of emerging biotechnology/life science, information technology and service businesses and operates in partnership with the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The 145,000-sq-ft facility currently houses 40 companies in the two-story building and space is available to add 25 additional small businesses. The center focuses on biotechnology start-ups and has approximately 20,000 sq ft of wet laboratory space and a shared equipment lab with an autoclave, centrifuge, low-temperature freezer and micro-optics.

While this project is not technically a

historical renovation, it is certainly a renovation of a major landmark in Birmingham's history. The Sear's building opened in October 1941 and for several decades served as a major player in the Birmingham Retail Market. The building, vacant since the late 1980s, had become somewhat of an eyesore to the community. Now, the \$14 million renovated building serves as a catalyst to the redevelopment efforts of this portion of downtown Birmingham.

The architect's goal was to incorporate the old building as a structural and aesthetic component in the new building. The goal was accomplished, but there were many challenges.



JASON WELLS PHOTOGRAPHY

#### Key Players

**Owner:** Innovation Depot, Birmingham, Ala.

**Contractor:** Brice Building Co., Birmingham, Ala.

**Cost:** \$14 million

**Architect:** Williams Blackstock Architects, Birmingham, Ala.