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dSPACE STUDIO



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— KEVIN
TOUKOUMIDIS, AIA

Dozens of Chicago’s architecture firms choose to keep their studios outside of the downtown Loop neighborhoods, embedding themselves in the local fabric. dSPACE Studio principal and founder Kevin Toukoumidis, AIA, saw Lakeview as an opportunity to bring design to the people. “We chose this site to bring architecture into the neighborhood, emphasizing the concept that good design is a part of everyday life,” he said.

Located on a busy pedestrian strip of Lakeview’s Lincoln Avenue, dSPACE Studio had originally occupied a single glass-faced storefront, which housed its workstations, kitchen and conference room/library that shared a transparent wall with the storefront façade. When the storefront next door opened up, Toukoumidis decided it was time to expand.

The firm renovated the space, adding workstations and a new kitchen, and connected the two offices with three penetrations through the brick wall, articulated by steel portals. The expansion now hosts all designer workstations and workplace amenities. It also provides another storefront, with clear views from the entrance to the new rear kitchen.

The expanded studio now allows for multiple spaces for teamwork. “We designed spaces for people to think and be creative — from multiple break-out areas, to conference areas, a landscaped back deck and a glass-roofed atrium phone booth,” Toukoumidis said. The back deck speaks most to the neighborhood feel — a traditional Chicago-style wood back porch offers outdoor seating and has allowed the team to build relationships with residential neighbors. Architects at dSPACE



have even built an outdoor maneuverable bike “lift” to house the shared bicycles.

Toukoumidis’ firm is known for its award-winning residential projects, which he attributes to collaboration and client relationships. He explained, “The studio is designed so clients can see and touch dSPACE’s innovative

details in person, like a workshop. The studio incorporates details such as flush baseboards, steel portals and a curated range of lighting, flooring, millwork and materials. Our expansion allows us to manifest physically many of the architectural values we hold at dSPACE — this really resonates with our clients.” CA

