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Trends in Law Firm Design
Client Communication

DMJM Rottet crafted a stylized environment for Thelen Reid & Priest that reflects the L.A. law firm's progressive new image

California Cool

By Diana Mosher
Photography by Benny Chan

There's a fine line between "old school" and "stodgy," but it's a line that San Francisco-based Thelen Reid & Priest knew it didn't want to cross. When the venerable law firm turned to DMJM Rottet to revitalize its corporate image in Los Angeles, the design directive was for a fresher and more stylized aesthetic. "Thelen Reid's Los Angeles office was growing after a long period of relative inactivity. New partners, new lateral hires, and firm acquisitions were transforming the firm," says Richard Riveire, principal, at DMJM Rottet's L.A. office whose team was charged with creating a space to portray a law practice that's national in scope and a real player in the L.A. market.

Thelen Reid & Priest has a rich institutional history, an enduring commitment to certain

values, and a culture that has been nurtured for more than 75 years. At the same time, the attorneys in our Los Angeles office are comparatively young, very entrepreneurial, and energized by change. We wanted our new space to project these qualities and our excitement over what the future holds," says Thomas Hill, managing partner, at Thelen Reid & Priest. "Our new space conveys a sense of creativity and innovation backed up by an attention to detail and a quiet but palpable confidence in who we are and what we do. I think those are also the qualities that bind so many clients to this firm."

The 55,000-sq ft. project included an interconnecting staircase, a state-of-the-art conference center, a base-building archiving and records library, custom administrative

