

## Everything old is new again

Allen Casey is leading by example. The owner of Casey and Associates architectural firm at mid-year will move his operation from offices on the edge of a residential neighborhood at 619 South Pickwick to downtown in the renovated Sterling Building at 312 Park Central East. The Casey Associates offices will be on the building's top floor and will include a rooftop terrace for informal meetings and entertainment.

"I really like the idea of a more urban setting. It will be a fun area to have an office," says Allen. He says he looks forward to the prospect of having various restaurants, galleries and pubs all within walking distance.

As a long-term proponent of a vital and vibrant downtown, Allen Casey serves on the boards of the downtown Community Improvement District, the Urban Districts Alliance and the Downtown Springfield Association. In addition to his enthusiasm, he has applied his firm's expertise in master planning and architectural analysis to a myriad of downtown renovations.

Specifically, Casey and Associates helps in planning renovation projects so the structures can qualify to be recognized in the National Register of Historic Places.

"We work with government agencies on regulation compliance and incentives to determine a property's potential early on in the analysis," says Allen. "It's a specialized benefit to our clients and goes beyond the consulting work of a typical architectural firm."

Casey and Associates is having an impact on urban centers beyond Springfield. The company has clients in 15 different states where they specialize in planning and designing data and operations centers for banks and other businesses. The firm created new operations centers for the Jack Henry firm in Houston, Kansas City and 13 other states. In Dubuque, Iowa, Allen and his team earned praise for their design work in the conversion of an abandoned 1870 department store into a bank's operation and data center. The renovation is credited with leading a revival in Dubuque's downtown district.

Capitalizing on its own renovation expertise, Casey and Associates' Sterling Project will convert the 1911 building on Park Central East to a state of the art office center with fiber optic networking to all offices for advanced communications. Allen expects the renovation experience and the new work environment will create an opportunity for both company and personal growth.

"It will stretch me and my associates to accomplish the work, but we benefit from having a small staff of really talented peo-



**This Jack Henry facility in Houston was designed by Springfield-based Casey and Associates.**



**In Kansas City, Casey and Associates converted an abandoned grocery store into a state of the art data center for Jack Henry & Associates of Monett.**

ple," Allen adds.

Allen displays a knack for design and renovation at home as well as work. He got his start in the architecture business with his father after getting a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Arkansas. He and his wife, Mary Lou, just completed renovating a home together.



**Casey and Associates earned high praise from downtown enthusiasts with their conversion of an empty department store in Dubuque, Iowa, to a new bank operations center.**