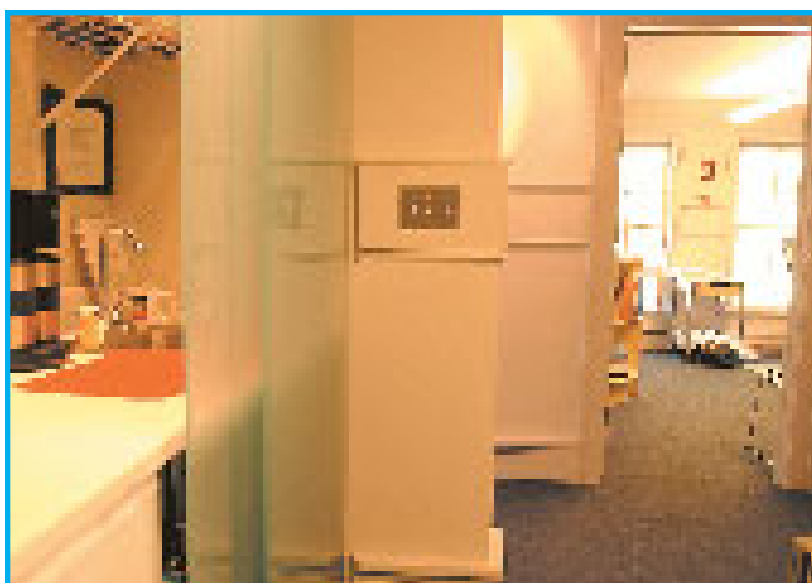


Renovating a home into an office space



Continued from Page 2

every old building is a good candidate — structural problems and other issues with some buildings mean they simply should be torn down. And renovations aren't for everyone.

If you're thinking of renovating an old building, you need to be willing to live with certain things — sloping floors, plaster, rippled glass among them.

"It's not new," Richmond said. "That works for some people and it doesn't work for other people."

For those who choose buying and renovating an older place, Richmond has this basic advice: "Don't scrub it too clean."

Going too far on an old place, such as gutting it and redoing everything, might indicate that the place should simply be demolished and something new erected.

"What was good about it is gone," he said.

Many old places, however, can be salvaged.

"These old buildings weren't really built as disposable resources," Richmond said. "They were built to last a long time. I think the idea that we start over new every time is a fairly new idea in our culture."

Lori Hall Steele is a local freelance writer.



Above left: The hallway of Richmond's office building is simple and in character of the building's original design. Top, the kitchenette has sliding glass doors to minimize the area when not in use. Above, Richmond's office space has maintained the lines and details of the building. Below, this space, now occupied by Nielsen Design Group, was built above what was originally a carriage house and later a garage in back of the main building.

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