



Reimagined, Redesigned & Renewed

By Kristine Kay

As I sit in my design office in Downtown Holland, I'm surrounded by loads of cool buildings. This got me wondering about the history of some of these structures, and about how their footprints and designs have changed over time.

I thought it would be fun to learn more about how some of our local buildings have been reimagined, redesigned and renewed to serve current businesses and their customers. So I decided to focus my next few *CONNECT* articles on telling the stories of some of these structures that are part of the backbone of our community.

First up is Cento Anni/ Warehouse 6 Events

When Ed DeNave and Randy Beute of Cento Anni decided to move their custom woodworking shop to 6th Street in Holland, the goal was to have more space for their growing custom furniture business and be closer to the foot traffic of Downtown.

Along with their partners, they purchased the building at 136 E. 6th Street which had been neglected and used as a storage facility for the previous 15 years. In its earlier days, the building had been home to a die casting business and later an industrial equipment manufacturer.

With a focus on using reclaimed wood to build furniture, it just made sense to house Cento Anni in an older repurposed facility.

As business grew to include more and more custom furnishings, customers wanted to see completed pieces. This drove the guys to renovate a large portion of the building they had previously been using to store wood slabs and reclaimed timbers to now function as a showroom.

I remember standing in the old storage space and listening to Ed and Randy brainstorm different ways to display their custom dining table offerings. It took a lot of imagination to see past all the years of grime and layers of green paint.

As the old bones of the building were gradually unveiled, they started thinking about different ways to use this unexpectedly cool space. Customers were so enthralled with the character of the building that the idea to somehow make the space available to the community came about.

One idea sparked another, and eventually, Warehouse 6 Events was born. The urban industrial event space at the back of the Cento Anni building is available for gatherings of all sizes. The building has been transformed into a hip space that now welcomes corporate gatherings, community meetings, and weddings. The event space is also the perfect place to showcase the various custom dining tables and other products made by the Cento Anni woodworking team. Be sure to check them out on Instagram and Facebook at [warehouse6events](#).

It took a strong vision from Ed and Randy to transform the structure for today's needs and bring the old building up to modern standards. And it took a lot of help. Lakeshore Advantage, the Holland Visitors Bureau and the City of Holland all played a role in the success of renewing the building.

Local artists like Jeff Long played a key role by sharing their creative energies to transform old bits and pieces found in the building into custom pieces for the event space. Even the



Warehouse 6 Events in 2012

Kristine Kay Interiors team got to help by taking old furniture blueprints and transforming them into custom wallpaper as a nod to the furniture making roots in Holland and the Cento Anni craft.

The building that is now home to Warehouse 6 Events has had many previous lives. But thanks to those willing to breathe some new life into the old space, it stands proud once again. Maybe this is an example others can follow. Great communities thrive when there is a blend of old and new.



Warehouse 6 Events today

Kristine Kay is the principal designer at Kristine Kay Interiors, a full-service Interior Design firm specializing in custom homes and commercial spaces. We'd love to be a part of the team that helps your business soar. Check us out at www.kristinekayinteriors.com and give us a shout at 616-460-1564.



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