



Trend Setter *Artistic Renovations*



A client wanting to open a cigar and tobacco shop approached Artistic Renovations owner Ken Perrin for help renovating a building he bought in Lakewood for the store. He was ready to roll, with plans prepared from an architect and a great vision for how to use the unique space. Then, unfortunately, a trip to the city for permits and a design review of the front elevation stalled the project. “They kept turning us down, thinking the building was historical. So they didn’t want to allow changes,” Perrin explains. An on-site visit cleared the matter and demo was approved. But the stalls kept coming. “Once demolition began, we found surprises like termites eating the center of the floor joist wall and lots of missing support structures from previous renovations through the years. These would have been serious safety issues had we not gutted and replaced everything.”

Now that the renovation is complete, some of the special attractions of the space include custom-made barn doors measuring 9 feet by 12 feet that can be used to section off private rooms. “The doors are made of local alder wood,” Perrin says. “Even though the client is from Chicago, he’s a fan of

Cleveland and was adamant about sourcing materials locally.”

Another great feature are eight antique humidors purchased from an old candy shop in Youngstown from 1890. The humidors were cleaned, restored and placed in the space in their original groupings. Perrin even designed cases and countertops to match.

When he couldn’t find local or repurposed materials for the project, Perrin sought out recycled supplies. For example, the vinyl flooring is cork-based with a vinyl top that looks like wood, but is made of recycled material. “It’s easy to clean, waterproof and very comfortable to stand on,” Perrin says. What’s more, the entire building is outfitted with the latest in energy-efficient technology, such as LED lighting and equipment that uses minimal power.

The space is ready for its big debut when the NARI Remodeled Homes Tour kickoff party is held there on Thursday, Sept. 24, for all the businesses involved in the tour. “It’ll give our client a chance to share and showcase the work we did on this great building and give the community a chance to enjoy a truly unique venue,” Perrin says. — *KF*

Nuts and Bolts

● **HOME ADDRESS:**
Robusto & Briar Cigar Store & Lounge,
1388 Riverside Drive, Lakewood

● **CONTRACTOR INFORMATION:**
Artistic Renovations,
479 Elm Court, Seven Hills,
216-520-0838, artisticreno.com

● **PROJECT FOCUS:**
Commercial Site

