

Aquilon Capital Corporation, Toronto

Taylor Smyth Architects, Toronto

Aquilon is an old Canadian term for a strong north wind. It was selected as the new name for a boutique investment company that was rebranding its image and moving into larger facilities in downtown Toronto. Taylor Smyth was assigned to design the new space.

The design philosophy juxtaposes the raw and the refined. The basic concrete structure, concrete columns and beams of the building were left exposed, contrasting with a carefully detailed and highly refined material palette of rift cut oak, glass and limestone. Textured plaster walls in red, yellow and pale green, inspired by the shades of autumn, provide colour in key locations.

Workstations, of rift cut oak and glass, were specified from Unifor, as were matching office desks, meeting tables and the boardroom table. The workstations are along perimeter windows, with enclosed offices and meeting areas in the interior, these spaces separated from the ceiling by a continuous band of mullionless clerestory glazing, allowing in natural light.

DESIGN TEAM: PARTNER-IN-CHARGE MICHAEL TAYLOR, PROJECT ARCHITECT AARON FINBOW, CHERIE NG AND MICHAEL LAFRENIERE.

[Photos by Ben Rahn/A-Frame]

