

A Calgary company born out of the '80s recession reinvents itself and prepares for life after the current downturn.

Back in 1983 when OPUS sprang to life as other development companies were faltering, the company quickly gained a reputation for youthful energy and hard work. The OPUS of the 1980s would take on almost any challenge, stepping in and succeeding on projects where others had failed. The name OPUS, a Latin word for "work" that is often associated with creative works of art and architecture, was an apt label for the company both then and now.

After nearly 27 years of growth, and after developing approximately 20 million square feet of office, high-tech, industrial and retail space, OPUS has weathered yet another recession and is emerging with new ownership and a new name – OPUS Corporation. But more than that, OPUS is emerging with a new vigor and focus that is, in some ways, reminiscent of the company's early days.

"Back in 2008, as economic indicators started to point to a potential slow-down," explains OPUS Corporation President and CEO Hannes Kovac, "we began looking at the future direction of OPUS. From 2004 through 2007, we had seen so much growth. The volume of



"We have been approached by a number of clients because they like the fact that we can do the development, the planning, the marketing, the management and the construction."

work was so great that, to deliver on our own development commitments, we had to start relying on third-party service providers to meet construction demand."

As the recession took hold, OPUS didn't just sit back and

bemoan the economic circumstances. Instead, the company refocused and began planning its next moves, using the slow-down as a time to streamline and consolidate. The OPUS team evaluated all of their internal systems and processes, implementing a company-wide,

“To me, this translates into a lot of stability as OPUS Corporation moves forward,” predicts Kovac. “The team we have here now, I can see myself working with for the next 15 to 20 years.”

integrated software system that encompasses accounting, estimating and project management. The new system allows for real-time, automated project monitoring with tighter controls and greater efficiencies.

The slowing of Alberta's economy also allowed OPUS to return to a business model where they provide all project functions internally. Doing so allowed the company to begin marketing itself as a service provider to third parties. Instead of just managing the demands of OPUS's own de-

velopment, the planning, the marketing, the management and the construction. They look at our 27-year record and our experience and know we can handle it.”

As a result of this refocusing, the company is currently working on a range of projects and proposals in the Calgary area including office improvements, hotel, retail and industrial developments, multi-family residential, assisted living complexes and recreational facility construction.

level of experience in excess of 10 years, the new OPUS is ready to deliver with expertise, energy and enthusiasm.

“To me, this translates into a lot of stability as OPUS Corporation moves forward,” predicts Kovac. “The team we have here now, I can see myself working with for the next 15 to 20 years.”

With the level of activity the company is seeing already in 2010, it appears the OPUS team is set on making that prediction come true.



Back Row From Left: Brian Harford, Heidi Krebs, Peter Hildebrant, Hannes Kovac, Jay Balkwill, Gino Mangone, Ursula Muranko
Front Row From Left: Liza Vainshtein, David Cukulin, Jenny Nguyen, Debbie Harlos, Mehwa Kim, Tamara Becker.

velopments, they can now provide third parties with the necessary services to take a project from initial sketches on a napkin through to grand opening.

“It has definitely taken a while,” concedes Kovac, “but it has started to pay off. In an uncertain marketplace, as we have had the past couple of years, capability and reliability are very important. We have been approached by a number of clients because they like the fact that we can do the de-

Today's OPUS Corporation is a tighter, re-energized version of the company that the Canadian marketplace, particularly the Calgary and Prairie region, has experienced over the years. Some positions were retired but the core OPUS team remains intact. And Kovac emphasizes they are a strong, young team. With an average age below 40 and an average

OPUS[®]

1702 4th Street SW
Calgary, AB T2S 3A8

For more on OPUS Corporation call 403.209.5555
or visit www.opuscorp.ca