



# Paramount Theatre Renovation

Lethbridge, AB

The original Paramount Theatre was constructed in 1950 for Majestic Theatres Ltd., having a capacity of 1,000 seats, including a guest balcony for distinguished guests to watch live performances or movies. In 1968, it was decided that a second theatre was needed and an additional 500 seat theatre was added onto the remaining northeast corner of the site. After many years of entertainment for the City of Lethbridge, the theatre was decommissioned in 2007.

Urban Insight Development Group Ltd. purchased the building and envisioned a two-storey renovation of the building into 33,000 sq. ft. of office space and boutique shops beneath the original trademark Paramount sign. Close collaboration with Ken Harvie resulted in an optimized design incorporating the historic elements to the greatest extent possible.

It is interesting to note that the Paramount Theatre, owned by Mayor A.W. Shackleford at the time, hosted the First Baptist congregation (see page 37) from January 1953 to January 1955 after a fire devastated their building across the street.







## Trusses Revealed for Modern Feel

Alvin Reinhard Fritz Architect Inc. designed the building with a public walkway throughout, connecting 4th Avenue and 8th Street, allowing pedestrians to stroll through the new shops and boutiques. The pedestrian walkway is greeted by an interior mezzanine that is bathed in daylight by two large skylights over the open floor area.

The existing ceiling structures were removed to display the large steel trusses which were left exposed to add a modern feel to the historic building. The original sloped floors were covered over to allow for a level surface for the boutique and office spaces.





