

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

JOURNAL OF THE ARCHITECTURAL WOODWORK INSTITUTE

SPRING 1999 / \$6⁹⁵

AIA LEARNING UNITS IN THIS ISSUE...SEE PAGE 44
CONTINUING EDUCATION
AIA

A FUNCTIONAL, WELL APPOINTED LOCKER ROOM

In a huge sports complex like the Target Center, located in downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota, the locker room may be considered almost an afterthought. Yet in order to attract and keep a National Basketball Association team and to provide a highly visible location for pre- and post-game television interviews, the locker room becomes much more important. The Target Center is a city owned sports and entertainment facility constructed in 1989 as a requirement to receive a National Basketball Association team. The NBA Minnesota Timberwolves remain a primary user of the facility.

To replace the plain laminate locker room, the Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA) went to architect Setter, Leach & Lindstrom of Minneapolis. The architects decided to design a facility that would be a functional locker room yet give the appearance of a well appointed boardroom. Their goal was to provide a quality locker room environment for an NBA team, and the room had to be a presentable space for functions such as televised player interviews. They selected cherry for the lockers, cabinetry, paneling and trim because of its color and quality appearance. AWI member Siewert Cabinet & Fixture Mfg., Inc. of Minneapolis provided the high quality woodwork throughout the room.



Photos by H. Larson Photography

The Minnesota Timberwolves locker room in the Target Center Arena, Minneapolis, Minnesota



Photos by H. Larson Photography

A view of the locker room showing the hardware installed inside the lockers. Like the cherry woodwork, the hardware was selected for durability in a high wear area as well as appearance. Selecting and installing the hardware presented a challenge to the woodworker

The locker room is a hard use area, so the lockers had to be durable and carefully designed to wear well. Cherry wood columns of 4" diameter were designed to define each locker, and 9" diameter columns frame the locker room entries to give the space a unified and unique quality. The result was pleasing to the architects. According to a representative, "The solid 4" diameter and the staved 9" diameter round columns with companion curved moulded trim and banding were produced with minimal variation in color and grain pattern."

According to Rick Siewert of Siewert Cabinet & Fixture Mfg., the installation was challenging because it had to be scheduled around training and other uses of the Target Center. In addition, the floor-to-ceiling installation was intricate because of the necessity to fit woodwork into areas that weren't always exactly parallel.

The architect established a close working relationship with Siewert Cabinets. "They were very helpful with construction, finish and hardware choices," a representative said.

PROJECT: Minnesota Timberwolves Locker Room, Target Center Arena, Minneapolis, MN

PROJECT OWNER: Minnesota Timberwolves, Minneapolis, MN

WOODWORKER: Siewert Cabinet & Fixture Mfg., Inc., Minneapolis, MN

ARCHITECT: Setter, Leach & Lindstrom, Minneapolis, MN