



Bakers Row

Birmingham, AL



WINCO's 1150S Windows Serve Up a Fresh, New Look at Birmingham's Historic Bakers Row

Bakers Row, formerly a Hostess bakery factory, sat uninhabited when the famed treat-manufacturer went out of business in 2012. Built in the 1930s, the Merita Bakery, as it was known, was an enduring part of downtown Birmingham, Alabama, and was considered too special to lose. Architectural firm KPS Group and developer Corporate Realty decided to take on the rehab project.

The Challenge

Their objective was to retain the industrial feel of the original structure with its wide, open spaces, high ceilings with sawtooth roofing, and exposed ductwork and support beams. But decades-old buildings like the bakery aren't always filled with the natural light and energy efficiency demanded by today's business people.

PROJECT DETAILS

Systems Provided

Series 1150S

Historic Replica

Bakers Row

Location

Birmingham, AL

Owner

Parkside Investment Bakery Partners

Developers

LIV Development and Corporate Realty

Architect

KPS Group

Glazing Contractor

Sunbelt Glass LLC

General Contractor

Sellers Construction

Project Number

160302



The Solution

The architects opened up the interior with oversized windows replacing huge chunks of the original exterior brick walls. They designed a stunning black grid fixed window system from WINCO's 1150S series that captured the vibe of the former bakery, yet brought the building up to modern day office requirements.

All windows are fitted dark-tinted Solarban low-glass to reduce heat gain and have a crisp black Kynar paint finish that pops against the white brick exterior.

The Accolades

Glazing contractor Chris Holcomb, LEED AP and president of SunBelt Glass LLC says, "This was a big job with very heavy windows, but the materials arrived on time, and ready to install. We had to cut huge openings in the old brick to accommodate the windows, but the effect was stunning."

"The windows are a hit," continues Holcomb, "We've had multiple inquiries from local architects and contractors about them."

Once the redevelopment was completed, Bakers Row won the Honor Award from the AIA Birmingham Design Awards.

After finishing the rehab work on Bakers Row, both KPS Group and Corporate Realty happily occupy parts of the former bakery, along with other new tenants. Bakers Row is now an integral part of Birmingham's revitalized Parkside District, joining Railroad Park, Regions Field, and Good People Brewing among other attractions.

