

DEMISI BOKS HEADQUARTERS, Mexico City

CHALLENGE Creating a contemporary office in Mexico City for the client, law firm Larena, Trevilla, Fernández and De La Torre Abogados, was the goal of BROISSINarchitects, however, one of the project's challenges was the given amount of space within which the designers had to work. Gerardo Broissin, the firm's founder, admits that designing the 1,667-square-foot area to comfortably fit approximately 40 people proved to be difficult, but he and his team came up with a design for the office, located on the fifth floor of an infill building, that promotes communication among employees and uses the lighting scheme to make the space appear larger than it actually is.

PROJECT | Demisi Boks Headquarters, Mexico City **DESIGN TEAM** | BROISSINarchitects, Mexico City (architect and lighting designer) **PHOTOGRAPHER** | Paul Czitrom, Mexico City
PROJECT SIZE | 1,667 square feet **LIGHTING COST** | \$15,000 (U.S.) **WATTS PER SQUARE FOOT** | 10 **MANUFACTURER** | Osram Sylvania



Situated outside the executive offices is a secretarial module (left), allowing for open communication between colleagues. Administrative employees work in the glass-enclosed cubicles (middle) located in the center of the office space. An aisle of executive offices (right) shows how the fluorescent cove lighting illuminates both the ceiling and floor.

SOLUTION In addition to the size constraints of the office's square footage, the low ceiling height of 9 feet also added to the project's complexity. Because the ceilings are not as tall as Broissin would have liked, he installed indirect linear T5 fluorescent fixtures in coves around the ceiling perimeters and also along the floor "to give the sensation of light boxes floating in space," Broissin explains. To illuminate the desks throughout the office, 20W halogen lamps are recessed into cabinets above the work areas, he adds.

The eight-story office building is located in Mexico City's Bosques de las Lomas, Cuajimalpa, neighborhood. Occupying half of the fifth floor, the Demisi Boks headquarters is split between administrative and executive areas. The administrative offices are located in the center of the space, enclosed in glass and strategically positioned this way to foster open communication between employees, including the firm's

principals, who are housed in eight offices located along the perimeter of the building. This configuration allows natural light to enter the executive offices throughout the daytime hours. To create an equivalent feeling of natural light throughout the rest of the office, which does not have the same access to daylight, Broissin developed the concealed cove uplighting strategy to make the interior spaces glow.

The office environment is clean and elegant with wood and glass being the main materials used throughout, and the lighting scheme complements this material palette as it creates the effect that Broissin describes as floating illuminated boxes. Looking down the hallways, the fluorescent cove lighting highlights the executive and secretarial spaces as it emits a soft glow. The lack of natural light throughout can make the office appear dark, but the lighting design successfully combats that, bringing a sense of daylight to the interior while creating a comfortable atmosphere. **JENNIFER LASH**