

meetingNOTES

new venue SPOTLIGHT



OFFICE SPACE

Byte & Mortar wants to be your working home. BY ALEXA STANARD

AFFORDABLE, INTIMATE MEETING SPACE can be hard to find, which is probably why so many small meetings seem to go down at the local Starbucks.

Into the void steps Daniel Haberman and his new venture, Byte & Mortar. Haberman, best known for his sleekly designed Ferndale bar the Bosco (which he sold in 2011), wanted to create a modern business center for individuals and small companies.

"I looked into the rise of co-working—the shared office concept—and tying it more into the concept of a business center, with shared services and private office suites," Haberman says. "I want to apply what I learned in the hospitality business to the office business."

The Troy office, which opened in October, boasts cutting-edge design and offers 6,000 square feet on one floor. About 1,000 square feet is dedicated to open-plan shared work space. The remaining square footage is largely dedicated to private office space and a 10-person conference room.

The facility is open 24 hours a day. Byte & Mortar offers a variety of service packages, but a \$159 monthly membership will provide on-site parking, Internet access, kitchen access, a shared office man-

ager and receptionist and discounts on use of the conference room.

"It's a great way to grow companies who want to start out," Haberman says. "You get a proper office, proper mailing address and a professional receptionist who will answer your phone whichever way you want. It gives a really excellent professional presence for a really low cost."

Non-members can rent the conference room for \$25 an hour, \$50 for a half day or \$100 for a full day. In addition, 18 private fully furnished offices are available for hourly or daily use and can be leased long-term or for just a day by clients who need a meeting space. A receptionist will greet your arriving guests on behalf of your company, giving the impression of a permanent and professional office operation.

Haberman says he hopes small business owners will come to see Byte & Mortar as just that—their long-term office. "You can be there for five years," he says. "Consider it your home."

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