

ARCHITECTURE

Incorporating Architectural Technology October 1986 Five Dollars

The Michael G. Abrams Co. in New York City designs and manufactures four women's shoe lines—Palizzio, Proxy, Perry Ellis, and Perry Ellis Portfolio. It seems appropriate, then, that its showroom consists of discrete spaces for each shoe line, but like the company there are common elements binding the spaces together.

The design by Janusz Gottwald & Associates of New York City (Janusz Gottwald with David Hoggatt, Laura Gottwald, and Mary Meuer) places a long arcade down the center of the showroom (bottom). On this arcade are "storefronts"—some pushed back, others forward to create a gentle rhythm to the space. Each brand name has a suite of small offices (located behind the protruding facades) and a larger executive office (behind the pushed back fronts) that doubles as a showroom during design week. It is during that week that the arcade scheme seems most effective—when hundreds of people pass through. There is a kitchen/dining room that can be closed off by folding doors or can be totally opened up (right). It is located directly across from the reception desk, a protruding element with a large window cut into it (right). —N.R.G.



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