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Bridgeport architectural firm opens office at Merritt 7 in Norwalk

Merritt 7 Corporate Park: Antinozzi Associates looks to be 'key design contributor'

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George Perham, Jamie Curtin and Stephanie Barbagiovanni pose in the Norwalk offices of Antinozzi Associates. The opening of a branch office in Norwalk is another step in the firm's expanding service to lower Fairfield County, Conn. In 2007, this 56 year-old architectural and interior design firm relocated its headquarters from Stratford to the Bijou Theater district in downtown Bridgeport. Photo: Contributed Photo / Connecticut Post

Competition has always been stiff for interior design and architectural firms in Fairfield County, but a longtime Bridgeport practice expects to expand its client list by opening a branch office in Norwalk.

Bridgeport-based [Antinozzi Associates](#) has opened an office at Merritt 7 Corporate Park where the firm has been retained for on-call design services at the 1.5-million-square-foot office park.

The Norwalk office is located in 650 square feet at Building 301. Antinozzi, founded 56 years ago, was selected by [Marcus Partners](#), manager of the complex.

Antinozzi saw the contract as a way to expand its corporate portfolio in the lower part of the county, said [George Perham](#), vice president and principal-in-charge of corporate and interiors contracts for the firm.

"This new office provides many advantages," said Perham, a Stratford resident who will lead the office. "By being part of the Merritt 7 Corporate Park family, management and tenants can reach us easily on site, without needing to make a phone call or arrange a meeting."

Joining Perham at the Norwalk office will be head designer [Stephanie Barbagiovanni](#) and [Jamie Curtin](#), a recent graduate of [Paier College of Art](#), who will handle design duties.

"I look forward to getting actively engaged with the local Norwalk community, as well as helping our firm become a key design contributor in the surrounding area," Barbagiovanni said.

The new office has access to the 30-person staff at Antinozzi's Bridgeport office.

"This will open up an avenue for us get to municipalities and other organizations in the area," Perham said, adding that having a presence in a community is crucial for obtaining contracts.

Clarion Partners, a private equity real estate management firm, bought [Albert D. Phelps](#)' share in the complex last May, and named Boston-based Marcus Partners as leasing agent.

It is the first time that Merritt 7 management has had an architectural firm to serve its tenants, said [JoAnne McGrath](#), leasing director of the complex.

"They work with us and help tenants understand how they will fit into space based on their needs," she said. "They're right there on site, and it's more convenient for tenants. They're not forced to use Antinozzi."

The arrival of Antinozzi in late December precedes the location of a 1,700-square-foot [Starbucks Coffee shop](#) in the lobby of Building 501, scheduled to open in June.