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A Piece of Old Nashville Restored

In 2014, Dowdle Construction Group signed on as lead contractor for the renovation of a 119-year-old building on Jo Johnston Avenue in Nashville, a passion project of "American Pickers" star Mike Wolfe. Wolfe purchased the building in its dilapidated state, with no roof and no floor, after driving past it for years on his way to his Antique Archaeology store only a block away in Marathon Village.



From the President

We have been fortunate over the past few years to share with you a number of interesting projects with fascinating owners. Some of these owners are Chef Jonathan Waxman of Adèle's, Scott Wilshire owner of Olive & Sinclair Chocolate Company, Pat Martin owner of Martin's BBO, Gabrielle and Tony Caldwell owners of the C&H Collective Salon + Wellness Spa, Carey Single owner of Peg Leg Parker, and Renata Soto executive director of CASA AGAFIAN. Today I am pleased to share Mike Wolfe's journey to save a dilapidated building at 14th Avenue and Jo Johnston.

Mike is the star and the creative talent behind the hit TV show "American Pickers," which is featured on The History Channel. He travels throughout the country looking for antiques and one-of-a-kind items to feature on his show. Mike certainly has a passion for all things "old," and the Jo Johnston building is no exception. I am grateful that Dowdle Construction Group could work with Mike and architect Nick Dryden to save his building.

- Glynn Dowdle, President
Dowdle Construction Group



A look inside the building on Jo Johnston Ave. when the restoration work began.



Mike Wolfe looks out the second story window of the building in 2014 before the renovation. (Photo: Shelby Mays/The Tennessean)

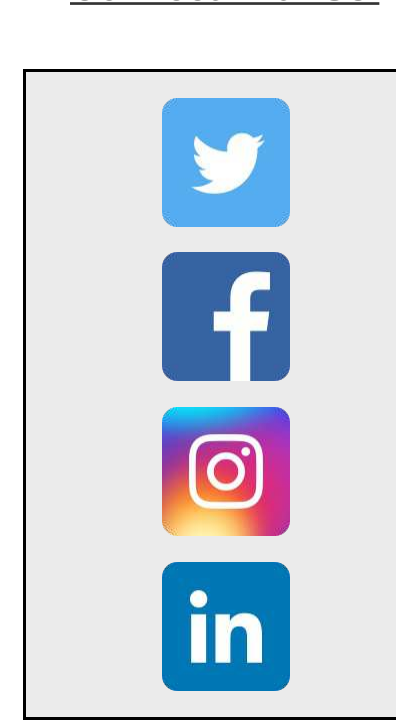
Not many contractors would have committed to a rehabilitation project of this scale, but Glynn Dowdle, president of Dowdle Construction Group, could see the potential that Wolfe envisioned: a multi-use, retail, and event space in a building that preserved the charm of "old Nashville."

The now completed space is industrial but chic, its urban design complementing the exposed brick walls and giant steel beams that frame the building.

"This project was really a thrill to be a part of," said project manager Allen Buchanan, with Dowdle Construction. "The steel beams are functional in that they will support and literally hold up the brick shell of the building. But they also fit with the design inside."

Slattacasa – a retail store, tattoo parlor, and barbershop operated by the hip-hop artist "Yakawell" – will occupy the building as the main tenant. The top floor will be a multi-use space for private parties and events.

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The front of the newly renovated Jo Johnston building, now home to a retail store for the Blumentown brand by hip-hop artist "Yakawell". (Photo: Shelby Mays/The Tennessean)



Mike Wolfe points out the interior architectural features in the barbershop, part of the Blumentown store. (Photo: Shelby Mays/The Tennessean)

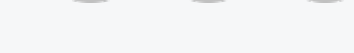
Nick Dryden provided architectural design for the project, and Southern Accents supplied the salvaged lumber used throughout the building.

You can read more about the renovation project in [this Tennessean article](#) by Nate Ray.

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