

VAN SCHAACK & COMPANY 2409 W MAIN ST

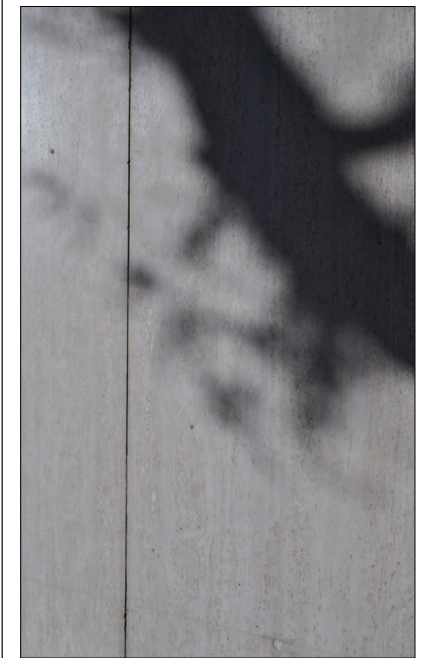
Architect	Unknown
Architectural Style	Formalist Style
Year Original	1964
Occupant	Van Schaak & Company (realty offices)
Current Occupant	Vacant

The Van Schaak & Company Building downtown by an unknown architect is a reductive Formalist Style building that is elegantly conceived and appointed. It is a horizontal rectangular solid capped by an exaggerated thick roof plane expressed with wide cantilevered boxed-in eaves extending above the east, south and north walls, with the west wall flush with the adjacent building.

The building rises above a short podium clad in fancy red and black granite that serves as a planter box where it abuts the sidewalk on West Main Street, and continues submerged in the walkway on the east side. The walls clad in vertical slabs of filled white travertine lined up horizontally, are set back from the podium. At the east end of the West Main Street side is a vertically oriented metal and glass entry comprised of a paired window and door, with the verticality being akin to the similar treatment of the travertine.

Despite the entrance being on West Main Street, the building's primary façade is arguably the one that faces the parking lot off South Prince Street. The glass and metal entry detail wraps around the corner, where it is repeated. Beyond, is a long wall covered in the travertine panels, interrupted by a series of floor to ceiling vertical windows lined up horizontally, and then another run of the travertine slabs. These windows have been treated in the same way as the corner elements—horizontally massed verticals—and thus also mirror the treatment of the travertine slabs.

Van Schaak & Company was one of the premier realty firms in the Denver area and the downtown Littleton branch housed in this building, was one of several offices operated by the firm in the 1960s. Like the one in downtown Littleton, Van Schaak & Company branches were typically housed in sleek Modernist buildings.



ABOVE

Shadows of street trees play across the panels of white travertine on the Van Schaak building.

OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

The Van Schaak building adjoins a pre-World War II commercial building on Downtown's Main Street; a advertisement announcing the firm's move from Downtown to Sternberg's Miller Law Offices Building on West Littleton Boulevard; detail showing the east side of the building facing the parking lot; detail of the southeast corner entrance; a row of vertical windows faces east.