At the Desk of Richard Wood

By Guelda Voien

For the past 30 years, Richard Wood has been the president of First Construction, a national company headquartered at 605 Avenue of the Americas in Manhattan. One of the largest construction firms in New York City, First is actively involved in developing the South Street Seaport and SIP Properties. Along with his other companies, Fisher Brothers, Plaza is involved in many of the city’s most high-profile projects, including 2 Winthrop Street and the 675,000-square-foot Franklin Furnace location planned for Lower Manhattan. But Wood’s office is full of reminders of his past as a member of the construction industry. By Guelda Voien

Wood purchased this block of real estate in the early 1980s from a developer who had agreed to the price. Wood says, “We didn’t have a lot of money back then, but we had a lot of ambition.”

Wood’s desk is from the New York branch of the New York office. The office had a large conference table that Wood says was “full of photos.”

Wood says he never dreamed of being a lawyer or a politician, but he was always interested in business. The desk is from the 1980s, when Wood was starting his own business.

Wood is seated at his desk, surrounded by photos of his children and his own professional career. He is wearing a suit and tie, and he is looking at something on his desk.

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