Architects build again

Amherst fire forces firm’s move
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AMHERST — The drawers stick, and the cream-colored file cabinets in a side room at Kuhn Riddle Architects Inc. are dingy with soot that even a professional cleaning couldn't remove.

"They looked pretty good, compared to everything else" in the old office at 6 Main St. the day after the November fire there, said John W. Kuhn. "I guess we'll have to replace them, too."

For Kuhn, two months after the fire, things are almost back to normal. But the experience has taught him a lot about what a business has to do to survive such a major disaster.

"It's the kind of thing you think is never going to happen to you," he said.

His firm's temporary quarters on the third floor at 29 South Pleasant St. are brightly lit and cheerful, with windows filling two walls. Some metal and wooden file cabinets were brought over from the old office. Some furniture is borrowed. Books still smelling of smoke are shelved in plastic

Through a window of John Kuhn's new South Pleasant Street office he can see the Main Street building where Kuhn, Riddle Architects Inc. had its office until a Nov. 4 fire heavily damaged the building.