

Schwickert's Tecta America Corporate Office

Mankato, MN



After significant growth a design-build mechanical and roofing company wanted to consolidate their engineering department, office, sales staff, and showroom into one location. The existing metal fabrication plant was transformed into a new corporate office, showcasing products and increasing communication and efficiency among employees. The new space perfectly reflects in size and spirit the firm's areas of expertise: design/build, mechanical systems, roofing and architectural sheet metal. Custom-designed lighting fixture "clouds" are located in the public spaces. The original fixtures are made of a trellised grid of galvanized mesh, hanging from I-beams and lit with low voltage bulbs. The resulting light creates a spectral pattern on the walls and floor of the space. The unique light and metal panels usually used for air ducts, give the space an industrial look and feel that showcases the materials of the industry.

As one of the largest roofing companies in the region, a Schwickert's trademark metal roof is a focal point of the building's interior lobby area. Additional spaces were created to designate separate areas for employee training and break rooms using roofing materials and over a dozen colors to create different "buildings" within the building. The black ceiling helps draw attention to the colored walls, metal fixtures and skylights.



The hub for the entire building is a central open space, with office areas radiating around it. Natural light connects the newly-designed space with existing office space. Conference areas-with glass partition walls-share natural daylight and open to the central common space. The transformed corporate facility brings together all the components of the business into one location that cohesively reflects the industry it represents.

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