

# MIDDLE WEST SPIRITS

**LOCATION**  
Columbus, Ohio

**PROJECT TYPE**  
Renovation

**COMPLETION**  
2017

**USE TYPE**  
Commercial

Middle West Spirits operated their artisan small batch distillery business from a 10,000 square foot, 1920's era historic warehouse structure in a quickly gentrifying urban neighborhood of Columbus for several years before deciding to expand. Their plans to increase their capacity required new distillery equipment, including stills of 50 feet and 35 feet in height and several large mashing tanks, as well as a public tasting room, bottle shop and offices. To accommodate this equipment, a center portion of the original steel bow truss and wood roof was removed and a new 50 foot tall, tiered steel structure was inserted over new foundations below. The new structure was clad entirely in Kalwall panels,

creating a monolithic white tower with a both striking and subtle daytime presence and a glowing, beacon-like quality at night.

The tasting room and adjacent private function room feature exposed ceiling structure with a new skylight over an antique bar and seating. A large set of collapsible window panels open to a street-side patio. In this way, the re-imagined distillery directly participates in and amplifies the lively retail and entertainment neighborhood. Behind the public spaces, the production area features a series of industrial, steel-structured mezzanine levels climbing to the uppermost sections of the stills to provide

access for operations and maintenance and for public tours. The second level includes a public education space with a projecting frameless glass window to capture views of the neighborhood.

The singular, monolithic nature of the addition and its disconnected relationship with the ground plane create an ambiguity of scale. Its contrasting relationship with the historic warehouse clearly illustrate its role as a "parabuilding" – that is, an addition or alteration ("parasite") to an existing building ("host") that transforms the essential character of the original structure.

