Brennan Industries

For the past 40 years, Brennan Industries has thrived as a family-run business in Solon, Ohio. However, their physical setting did not represent who they were or how they wanted to operate moving forward. Brennan sought to reuse and expand their existing facility to reimagine their presence on the street while interweaving new modes of work and collaboration.

## Stand out from the Crowd

The Brennan Industries headquarters sits on a busy road surrounded by other 1970s industrial buildings. When Brennan realized they needed to double the size of their offices and distribution space, they had two criteria for the design team: they wanted the existing facility and the addition to look like a cohesive building, and they wanted to stand out amidst the neighboring concrete and brick structures. The building was expanded with the new main entrance, highlighted in the “Brennan Blue,” acting as the bridge between the new and existing structures.

The entire façade was recladded with metal panels and new glazing for a clean modern look that differentiates Brennan from the surrounding heavy precast structures in the area. Staggered vertical windows provide natural light deep into the space and activate the façade throughout the day.

## New Methods of Collaboration

Brennan wanted the facility to help attract new talent while also encouraging their existing leaders to embrace new work modes. The floor plan blends program elements with no hard lines of separation. Changes in floor material and ceiling-hung elements delineate different types of spaces. The transitions are eased, allowing for the user to shape how the office is utilized. This creates a more seamless workflow and opens up new ways of oscillating between individual work and group collaboration.

## Bringing in Natural Light

The abundant natural light in Brennan’s new headquarters marks a dramatic change from their previous windowless space. To utilize the full volume and bring natural light in, horizontal window wells were created above the offices These wells, highlighted in the Brennan Blue offer diffused light and help with the internal scale of the space. This bright modern space reflects Brennan’s new image as an innovative company and contemporary workplace.

## Modern Finishes & Materials

The reception area and lobby were designed to greet visitors and employees and establish the facility as an innovative and creatives space.

Furnishings contrast natural wood tones with white or blue fabric to create an atmosphere that is both warm and contemporary. The furniture has distinct materiality to help break down the scale of the space from the overall building to the individual. Tactile textures and detailed wood finishes are geared more to the personal level.