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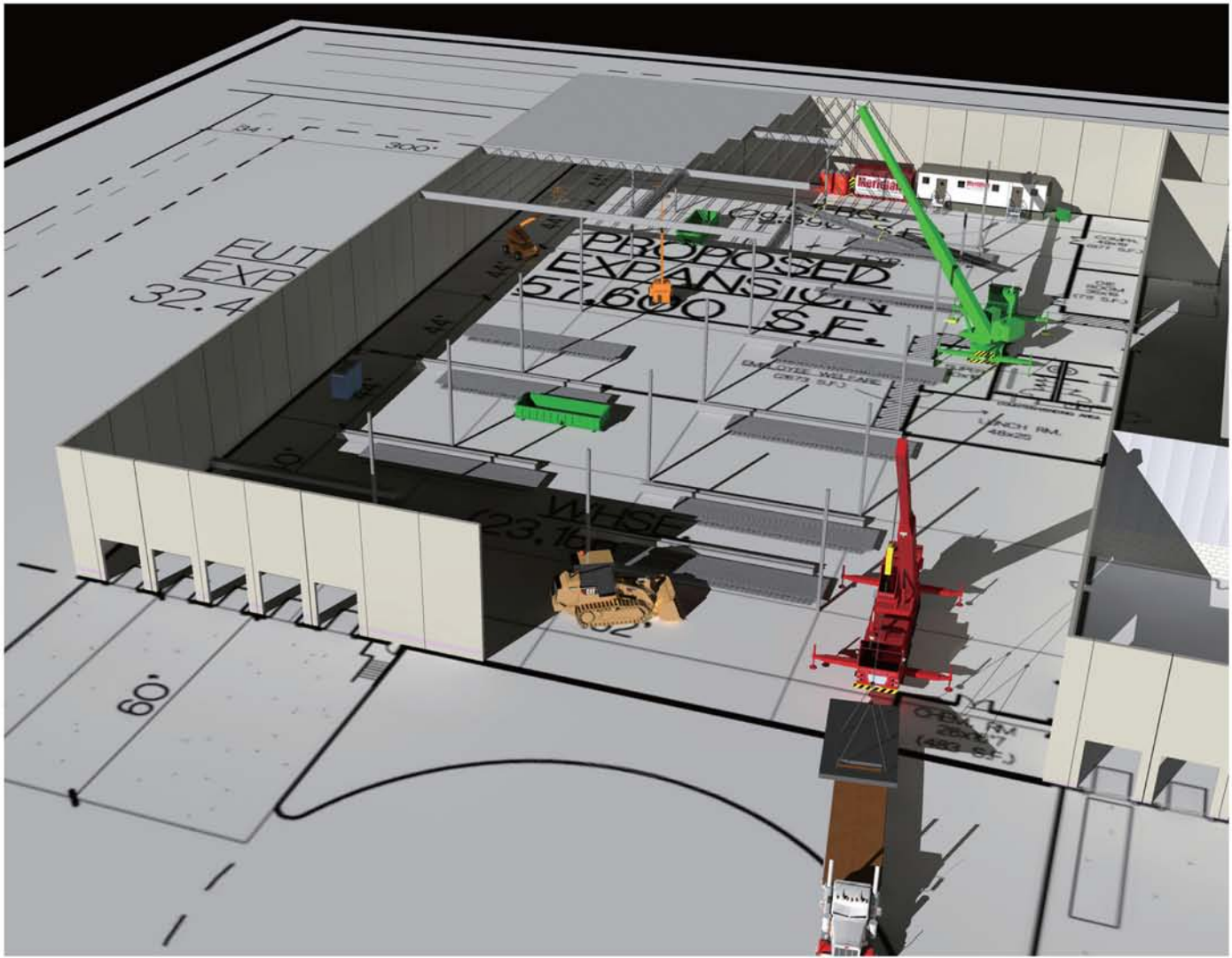
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The popular beer maker raises
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Stirling Properties helps revitalize
the city's Central Business District

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At a Glance

Location

Deerfield, IL

Founded

2005

Specialties

General contracting and construction planning and management

A General Contractor's Closer Customer Care

Commitments to communication, service, and innovation have earned **Meridian Design Build** many referrals and much repeat business

by Laura M. Browning



HOWARD GREEN AND PAUL CHUMA ARE ENGINEERS BY TRADE and problem-solvers at heart. They aim to keep their clients happy, and they understand that the keys to the success of any endeavor are identifying challenges early on and implementing cost-effective solutions. Together, with these insights and the help of an experienced staff of project managers and field superintendents, they have grown their Chicago-based construction business to a point where **more than 85 percent of their projects are the result of repeat business or direct client referrals.**

Above: Meridian Design Build is using 3D modeling to help clients visualize their completed facilities during the design and planning stages of their projects.

“We’ve been able to greatly speed up the flow of information by leveraging technology to improve the way we interact and communicate with our clients.”

PAUL CHUMA, PRESIDENT

A recent project for Kerry Ingredients & Flavours evidences Meridian Design Build’s ability to proactively solve problems for its clients. The client had originally envisioned a warehouse addition designed to free up space within an existing building for additional processing lines. During the first stage of the project, however, Meridian suggested that a more beneficial and cost effective solution might be to move the new processing lines into the new addition. The potential benefits included fewer interruptions to Kerry’s ongoing production and the elimination of costs associated with retrofitting the existing building structure to accommodate the new lines. Meridian was able to work with the city and subcontractors on the fly to modify permits and material orders to accommodate the revised plan without any delays to the expansion project. “At the end of the day,” Green says, “we were able to deliver a cleaner, more efficient production facility for less money—and within a tighter timeframe—than if we’d tackled this as the two-phase project [our client] originally envisioned.”

Meridian Design Build is, in many ways, a customer-service business and one way they have been able to succeed in that area is by working hard to keep the lines of communication open. “We’ve been able to greatly speed up the flow of information by leveraging technology to improve the way we interact and communicate with our clients,” Chuma says. Every customer is provided with a secure login to a proprietary online plan room that offers them instant access to the latest drawings and project documents from wherever they are. Meridian’s superintendents take daily construction-progress photos that are uploaded to the Web to give clients the ability to keep track of progress at the jobsite on a real-time/on-demand basis. Virtual tours, 3D



Above, A positive experience working with Meridian on a 3 story innovation center project at their headquarters in Woodridge, IL led Morey Corporation to hire Meridian Design Build to coordinate the design and construction of an 80,000SF manufacturing expansion less than 2 years later.



Above: The 84,000SF expansion for Kerry Ingredients and Flavours was constructed on a site that housed an outdated multi-story industrial facility. At Meridian’s recommendation, more than 8,000 tons of concrete and masonry debris generated during the demolition process were recycled onsite and incorporated into the construction of the building expansion resulting in a significant savings to the client.



Above: Meridian recently completed its fifth project for WW Grainger, a 1,000,000SF Distribution Center in Minooka, IL. The project incorporated a significant number of innovative sustainable design features and is currently the largest LEED-CI Platinum certified building in the world.

modeling, and other innovative technologies are used to help clients envision their completed projects and make more informed design decisions along the way.

Green and Chuma have also made it a point to emphasize sustainability on the company's projects. Meridian has successfully implemented a self-imposed policy of separating and recycling construction waste on each and every jobsite and routinely crushes and recycles concrete waste products for use as granular fill on redevelopment projects, a practice that often results a significant savings to the client's bottom line. The company has LEED-accredited professionals on staff, both in the office and in the field, and makes an effort to assist its clients in understanding and obtaining governmental and utility-company incentives related to sustainable design and energy-efficient building systems.

"Ultimately," Green says, "we are committed to making sure that every client gets more than they expected and that their construction experience is a positive one. Our best sales tool is a satisfied client." ABQ

Below: Meridian is currently coordinating the design and permitting of a 240,000SF facility for FedEx Ground in Romeoville, IL. This project follows the successful completion of another 215,000SF package sortation and distribution facility for FedEx in Grayslake, IL that involved significant offsite improvements including utility and roadway extensions.

Meridian

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New Construction
Facility Renovations
Tenant Improvements
Additions / Expansions

It All Starts With Great Clients!


HOW THE OTHER WIGS GET IT DONE





























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