



Best Exterior: Steel Sales & Services



Doing creative things with steel is what Steel Sales & Services is all about, so it's not surprising that their East Chicago offices feature a lot of metal in rather unusual places. "We have completed design projects where we had customers that were looking for that 'steely' type unique look to finish their building and are not sure what can be done," says President Mike Leeson. "We made the decision to create some unique things from steel to be able to show people what some of the possibilities are."

Among the most unique is the entrance canopy, an impressive steel structure that presented installation challenges due to its size, weight and the design of the offset legs making it unable to stand on its own, but which Leeson says really demonstrates what can be done with steel.

"We have always tried to showcase how things can be made from steel and that is reflected at each of our facilities," he says. "Some people have retained us to design and build a monument for their facility or a piece of artwork that is specifically designed for them to be one of a kind."

The company has other steelwork artistry inside the office and in certain areas. "When we need to have something that would traditionally be made of wood or other materials, we usually will make it out of steel if we have the time to do so," Leeson says. "To us steel can be very beautiful; it is up to us to show other people its beauty and its limitless possibilities."

Everything the company has done has been made completely in-house. "Bill Walczak has been a tremendous asset to us with design concepts and figuring out how something can be made," Leeson says. "With the right kind of project Bill can dazzle people with certain designs."