

THE NEW MICROSOFT RETAIL SPACE AT MOA:

Associated Mechanical Contractors provides design services for both new construction and the renovation of existing spaces, creating the infrastructure for fresh, dynamic, and comfortable environments.

Among the projects recently completed by Associated Mechanical is the new retail space for Microsoft Corporation at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota. Microsoft Corporation is a high profile client with very specific needs for their space.

AMC Project Manager, Greg Miller headed up the project, which began in August and completed in November of 2010. It took the AMC team a short four months to design assist, install, and complete one of the most challenging renovations for the company. "The Microsoft retail project at the Mall of America was an extremely fast-paced project due to the tight schedule. The client's goal was to have the space open and ready for the holiday season. It was challenging to meet the client's needs for upgrading the cooling system required to handle the temperature control, which is critical for maintaining all of the computers used in their space. The amount of air conditioning and ventilation required for the 4,000 sq ft space is significant.

The Microsoft project was a "Leed Project", which implements "Green Building" practices. There are several levels of Leed Projects, each level is determined by the green practices utilized on the project. We are proud that we were able to achieve a Gold level with the Microsoft project.

We were able to reach that goal by utilizing low VOC materials. We also took extra precautions in sealing the ductwork, as well as installing a filtered ventilation system to eliminate penetration of microscopic particles and to provide the proper air flow needed to maintain a consistent temperature and to handle the heat generated by the computers used to demonstrate and sell the Microsoft products. We installed four roof top cooling units, which required that we fit pipe up through four floors of space and we used two Glycol and two refrigerant systems together with Mall Of America supplied conditioned air.

The Microsoft project was challenging in terms of design and schedule, but at Associated Mechanical we pride our selves on a "can do attitude". Each of our clients has unique needs; our goal at AMC is to deliver the most efficient solutions to meet those needs. We achieved that goal by completing the Microsoft project on budget, on schedule and by using the newest, most effective "green" technologies available."