

Rydell GM Auto Center



Grand Forks, North Dakota

Electrical Construction: \$735,000

Year Completed: 2005

Project Manager: Steve Wasvick

Project Foreman: Ward Eagleson

Architect: Darwin Lindahl Architects

General Contractor: GW Sondreal
Construction

The impressive Rydell GM Auto Center is a 73,000 square foot automotive dealership that showcases seven different brands of automobiles in a unique "Auto Mall" concept. Bergstrom Electric was hired as the electrical contractor early in the process and worked with GW Sondreal Construction to provide a unique design/build concept that incorporated the owner's vision.

Three phases of construction were established: the first would build a new service, quick lube and parts department, the second phase would include a new showroom and general offices and the third phase included all the site work. A tremendous amount of coordination was required as the existing building was still in operation. As the new building grew and became occupied, parts of the old were demolished.

The building was designed with a 2500 amp 480/277V service, 2 section main switchgear, 2 motor control centers, 6 step-down transformers and 17 panelboards strategically located throughout the facility.

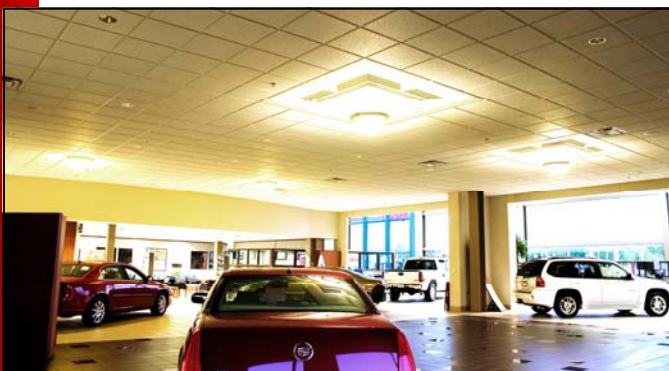
Several unique challenges presented themselves throughout the project. Most notable was the difficulty in providing lighting and power to the 30,000 square foot showroom, sales offices, and training area. The unique architectural arch and all

glass front wall prevented the use of conventional power distribution methods. Bergstrom utilized floor boxes and structural beams to get power where it was needed.

The building also includes programmable relays with light harvesting techniques, which allows the owners to setup different light levels to match business hours and natural light levels. This cost effective system will save money in operational costs.

All three phases of the project were constructed on time and within budget. It took 8,500 manhours to complete the project.

This project earned Bergstrom Electric a Minnesota Associated Builders and Contractors 2006 Excellence Award as well as a National Excellence Award from the International Electrical Contractors Association.



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