

THE CUTTING EDGE

Wisconsin Institutes of Discovery

The Wisconsin Institute of Discovery is a bio-medical research organization that recently built a new headquarters in Madison. Grunau Metals was engaged to construct a variety of unique finished metal ornamental components for the building, all of which exemplify the design innovation of the project. Polished stainless was used to fabricate a horseshoe shaped warming kitchen, 325 feet of hand rails, coiling supports around the perimeter, decorative cladding on all five floors, as well as aesthetic radiused benches surrounding the water fountains. So much of the building's visual impact can be found in the fine decorative specialty metal details created by Grunau.

The required tolerances for the components presented unique challenges including hairline gaps between metal pieces, a requirement that demanded each piece be precisely cut and fit. And, ensuring that the radiuses of metal components mirrored the radiuses of the architectural elements was of high importance. Grunau's ability to interface CAD efforts directly with CNC operations allowed for exacting accuracy in their fabrication.

Designed by Philadelphia architectural firm Ballinger and coordinated in Madison by Uihlein-Wilson, the building is a testament to innovative thinking. J.H. Findorff and M.A. Mortenson, the building owners' general contractors, engaged Grunau Metals for this high profile project.



New Messer True Hole Plasma Torch

Focusing on the customer is what we had in mind when we purchased our new Messer True Hole Plasma Torch. The new machine will help control the cost of projects while vastly improving quality.

The machine incorporates "True Hole" technology which improves the quality of burned holes and allows us to utilize burned fabrications on structural jobs, something we did not have previously. With this equipment, we are able to plasma cut up to 1-1/2" thick carbon steel and 1" thick stainless steel, as well as oxy-fuel torch cut up to 3" thick carbon steel.

The capabilities of this machine have not only improved upon the material thickness we can cut but also increased the physical size of the plate we can utilize. We are now able to plasma/torch cut parts from flat plates/sheets up to 10' X 20' in physical dimensions.

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