



## FAIST LIGHT METALS ENGINEERING HEADQUARTERS

# TECHNOLOGY, PRODUCTIVITY AND COMFORT

Calderara di Reno, Italy

FRANCESCO BONDI, ANDREA NATICCHIONI,  
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Faist Light Metals Engineering is part of the Faist multinational group and deals with the design and construction of die-cast molds for automotive and telco applications. The newly built headquarters are in Calderara di Reno (Bologna), housing both a manufacturing area and administrative/technical offices.

The design is based on four principles - lightness, transparency, openness and continuity - and the design brief required these were merged to create a complex that fosters productivity and comfort.

The project by Francesco Bondi, Andrea Naticchioni and Alessandro Bulletti has a 1,600 sq.m production floor adjacent to a series of buildings housing the canteen and offices (850 sq.m) arranged on different levels around a U-shaped courtyard. To turn this into reality, the designers had to work closely with Promo for the engineering and installation of structures, façade systems, fixtures, infills and roofs.

The glazed façades overlooking the courtyard provide abundant natural light for the workspaces and excellent views that manage to be

both open and private at the same time. Both company departments have a load-bearing structure in metal with vertical infills of striped and smooth sandwich panels in various shades of grey. For the volumes housing the management offices, the glazing on the ground floor was created using Metra's Poliedra Sky 50 aluminum curtain walls. The sliding doors provide access to the garden at different points, creating a seamless space between indoors and outdoors.

On the upper floor, the glazed walls are made with Metra's NC 65 STH-HES aluminum fixtures with bottom opening windows.

The manufacturing floor has single-rail sliding doors, while in the upper section of the factory, on the side facing the interior courtyard, the ribbons windows are protected by fixed aluminum screens.

The double-steel sandwich panel roof has been set up for a photovoltaic installation and, in the central section, it has a polycarbonate opaline section that can open slightly and allows natural light into the work area.



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