

#5 Essenhaus, Inc. - Das Dutchman Essenhaus

60 FOR 60

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History:

- DJ's relationship with Essenhaus, Inc. and Das Dutchman Essenhaus began in 1989, when we were awarded the contract for a new warehouse on their Middlebury campus. At that time, the restaurant was 18 years old and had a maximum capacity of 95 seats. We are grateful to have been their builder of choice ever since.
- After remodeling the Dawdy House Bed & Breakfast in 1991, the two businesses turned their attention back to the restaurant. In 1995, the Das Dutchman Essenhaus restaurant was expanded to over 1,100 seats that totaled over 70,000 sq. ft. of floor space, making it the largest restaurant in Indiana. DJ worked three shifts on that project to limit the shut-down time of the kitchen to only three weeks.
- As the restaurant grew in popularity, so did its baked goods; as a result, a larger, more functional bakery became necessary. DJ provided the expansion in 2001 by adding almost 6,000 sq. ft. and also enlarging the bakery retail area.
- The largest expansion project occurred in 2003 when DJ added almost 53,000 sq. ft. to the Essenhaus Inn & Conference Center. The three-story, wood-framed addition included an indoor pool, hot tub, kiddie pool, and balconies in many of the 54 new guest rooms. The 4,000 sq. ft. conference center, while connected to the inn, has a separate entry point for the numerous events that it hosts.
- In 2007, the two businesses partnered on a world-class noodle production facility, moving it from the original warehouse built by DJ in 1989 and added onto in 1998. The new, state-of-the-art facility of nearly 35,000 sq. ft. also contained offices and warehouse space. With the production equipment installed in the new facility having been engineered and assembled in Italy, DJ's team carefully ensured that the infrastructure required for the equipment was in place prior to its arrival.
- Three recent projects include the remodel of The Gift Barn, one of six retail shops; the renovation of a gift shop into Heritage Hall for concerts and musicals; and a drive-through canopy at the restaurant.

"It has been such a blessing for us to have the opportunity to call the Miller family & the Essenhaus one of our most loyal clients. To be able to serve this organization over the last 25 years that shares so many of the values that we do at DJ creates the kind of relationship that has us finding ways to support each other's business and rooting hard for each other's success. It's easy to care deeply about clients that care deeply about others and show it in their actions every day.

We're lucky to have had the opportunity to work with Bob & Sue & their early vision & goals for the Essenhaus facilities, & then be part of their continued growth with the next generation of family leadership of the business, Bob & Sue's sons Lance, Joel, Jeff, & their son-in-law Randy Yoder."

-- Doug Wogoman, President
DJ Construction

