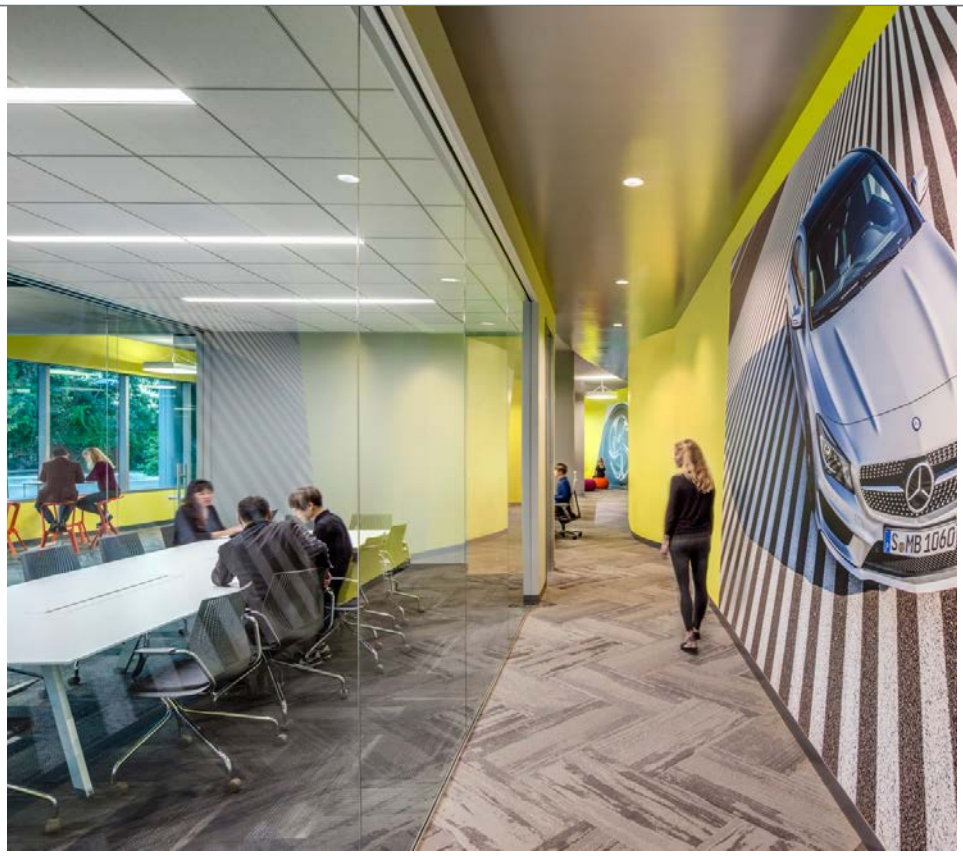
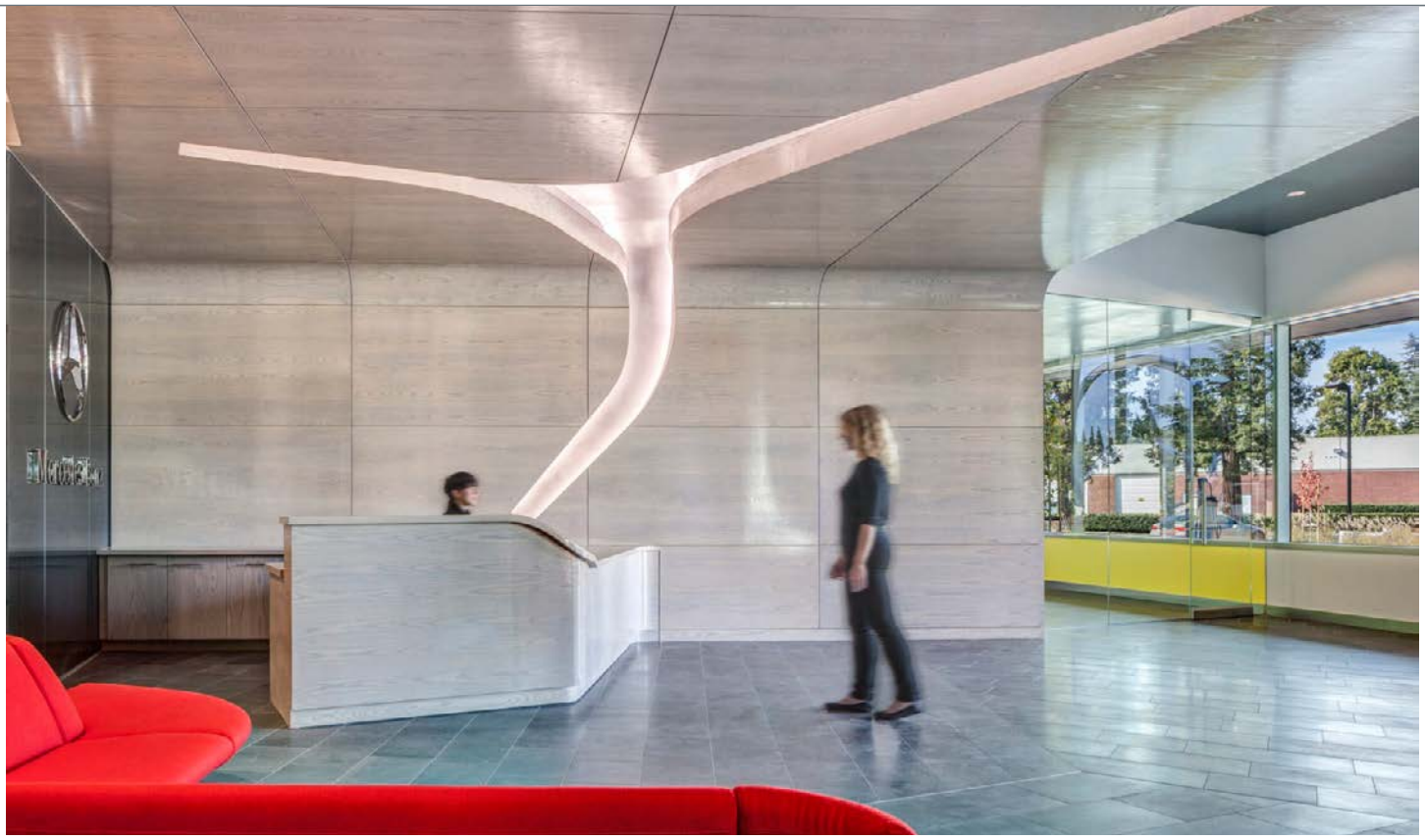
MERCEDES-BENZ
Research & Development North America Inc. (MBRDNA) Sunnyvale, CA



Size
68,000 square feet

Project Highlights
Headquarters consolidation from two locations into one new facility that accommodates 250 seats; 8,000-square-foot auto lab containing fuel cell and lithium Ion technology labs
3,750-square-foot cafeteria and outdoor terrace; New design of software labs for research and development; Destination attractions, or 'hot spots' such as juice bar, ice cream bar, yoga and relaxation room, and climbing rock wall; Flexible collaboration areas: enclosed offices, conference room, and huddle and phone rooms; High impact branding balances German precision engineering with the vibrancy of Silicon Valley; Neighborhood work groups identified by color and amenity and separated by sliding glass partitions to maximize transparency, daylight and views.

Services Provided
Workplace design strategy; Full service interior design and architecture



MBRDNA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Daimler North America Corporation, whose four divisions focus on research, advanced engineering design, product development, and testing for Mercedes-Benz cars and other Daimler Group business units. The goal of the project was to consolidate the headquarters from two locations and to provide an innovative space that would contribute to recruiting and retaining the best engineering talent in the competitive Bay Area.

In the lobby, meticulous attention to detail and materials expresses the elegance of this innovative brand. The reception desk, a fluid element of wood, becomes a wall feature that curves and becomes an organic shaped ceiling element that reflects design detailing similar to Mercedes Benz cars. Embedded stainless steel strips enhance the gray stone floor, and a black back painted glass wall displays an interactive video screen available to visitors. The ground floor includes a cafeteria with outdoor patio and a garage and lab for full modification and software testing on real car models.

The research and development departments on the second and third floors are laid out in fluid configurations to provide the maximum required just-in-time mobility defined during interactive user interviews. One hundred twenty fully adjustable workstations provide office space. Staff can easily move between enclosed offices, meeting spaces, and huddle and phone rooms. Curved ceiling elements provide a variety of ceiling heights.

Designed as neighborhoods, departments are separated in a series of smaller suites by sliding glass partitions that can be used as writing surfaces. Enclosed spaces with floor-to-ceiling frameless glass walls and pivot doors create an impression of clear cubes floating in space. Neighborhoods are identified by color and amenity. Each offers a unique attraction—a juice bar, yoga/relaxing room, or rock for climbing, to name a few.

A neutral palette of white walls and gray carpet are used throughout with bright colors — orange, fuchsia and red — identifying informal, formal collaboration, and focus areas. Color also contributes to wayfinding. The furniture helps define the use of space with soft seating and coffee tables in lounge areas and more formal tables and task chairs in others.