

The Greenhouse Chronicles

Structures suppliers share some of their most memorable jobs.

GREENHOUSE suppliers see it all. Projects of all sizes and shapes. They see projects from the inside out, from start to finish.

We asked several greenhouse structures suppliers to share essays on unique or challenging projects they've worked on recently. These are their stories.

Multi-Zone Greenhouse Nexus Greenhouses

by Lynn Hackett

The Nexus commercial greenhouse project for Garden Genetics, LLC, a start-up plant breeding company located in Bellefonte, Pa., was unique, interesting and challenging. Garden Genetics principals Rick Grazzini and Mike Uchneat

turned to Nexus Greenhouses for their very complex project. Their facility is a research greenhouse with an attached headhouse/laboratory. The 27,000-square-foot greenhouse has eight zones that can be controlled independently and accurately. Garden Genetics conducts breeding and contract research there, so being able to control the crop environments will enable better breeding and plants that are developed under conditions that duplicate those experienced by their commercial growers.

The design helps Garden Genetics produce plants to the specifications of their research clients. After examining a number of research greenhouses on university campuses across the country, the principals knew what they wanted.

The Nexus Vail steel-covered headhouse includes library and lunch room. The interior walls are insulated. They chose to leave the common wall between the headhouse and greenhouse space as twin-wall polycarbonate to allow as much natural light as possible into the headhouse. To maximize light, they use tempered glass for most of the roof. They can already see positive plant response differences with the glass-covered greenhouse. Rick said, "Even if Nexus had been more expensive than the others, their responsiveness alone would have won the project, but the prices were essentially the same. Post-sale, the service team Nexus put together for us – heating, cooling, systems, construction – has been superb."

To maximize light, Garden Genetics' Nexus structure uses tempered glass in most of the roof.

