

A world-standard manufacturing base with a comfortable working environment

J.S.T. Mfg.'s Tokyo Engineering Center

Founded in 1957, J.S.T. Mfg. is a manufacturer of electronic connectors for mobile devices, automobiles, and other products. This leading global company has the number-one share in Japan with 22 domestic offices, and a base in 18 countries. A new building was completed at the Tokyo Engineering Center, one of its development bases, at the end of 2017. It was designed and supervised by the Noriaki Okabe Architecture Network, which has worked on a total of six J.S.T. Mfg. buildings.



Seamless Light Cover with Corian® Solid Surface Glacier White

“We were adding on a new building connected to the building completed in the first phase of construction in 2009, with a central courtyard in between. We finished rebuilding the Tokyo Engineering Center in this second phase,” said Mr. Noriaki Okabe. “The new building has five aboveground and one basement floor, and the spaces needed for work are kept compact. We built an atrium, rooftop vegetable garden, and other facilities to create a pleasant working environment,” he added.

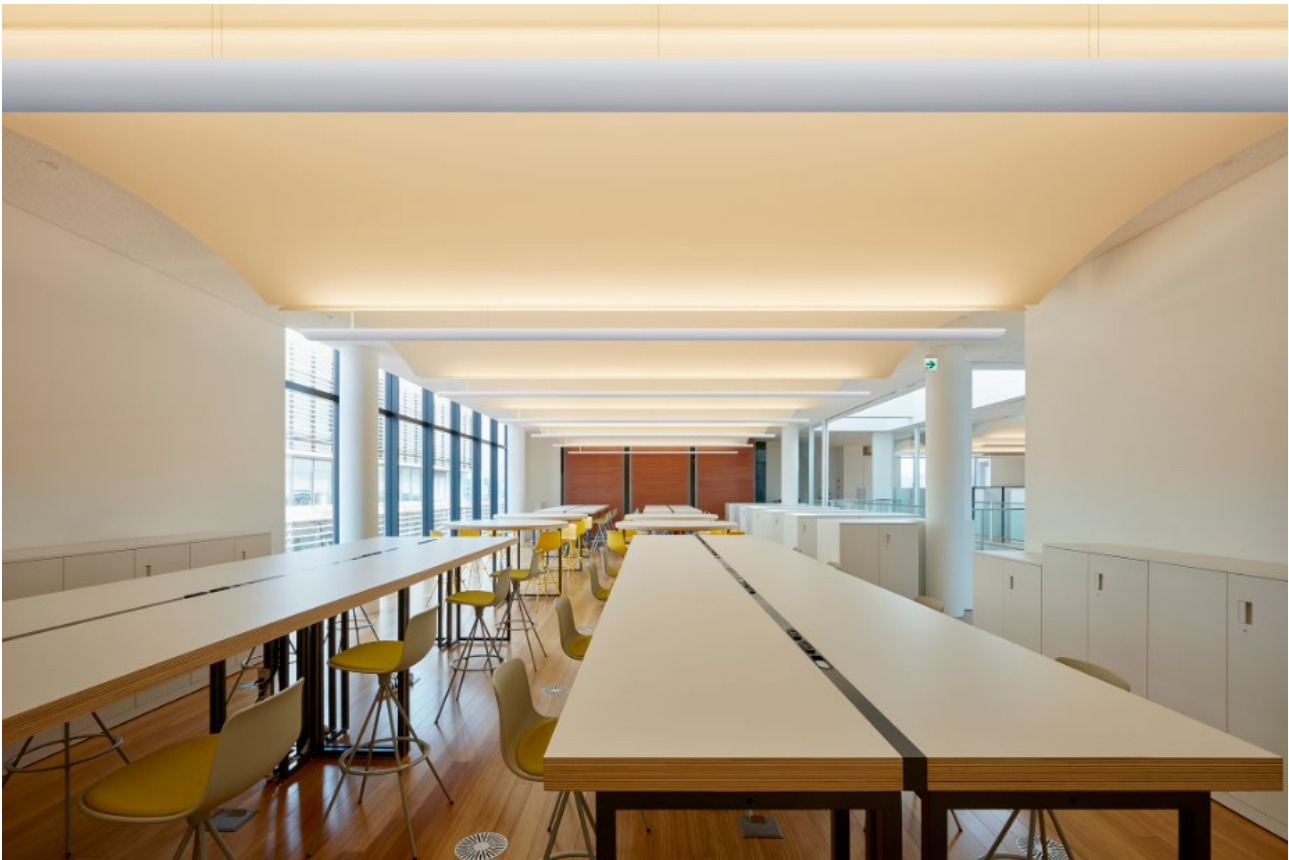
The work space used by the sales staff members is from the second to the fourth floor. The office spaces are open to the atrium that connects the floors, and features vaulted, cylindrical ceilings that softly reflect indirect light. The lighting cover, designed to match the beautifully curved ceilings, is made from Corian® Solid Surface.



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“We place importance on ceilings, since they play a major visual role in spaces,” said Mr. Okabe. Several common rules apply to his building designs. For instance, they have no air-conditioning ducts in the ceiling to preserve ceiling height, and there are few unnecessary design elements such as access holes, and lighting sources are concealed.

Mr. Hiroshi Yamaguchi of the Noriaki Okabe Architecture Network said, “We chose the same vaulted ceiling used in the first phase of construction. We thought we wanted to fit the lighting equipment with the same precision as the beautifully connected ceiling. We can’t avoid seams when using existing lighting equipment, so we thought we could create our ideal lighting with Corian® Solid Surface, which can be attached seamlessly.” The lighting cover (4,900 millimeters long) was made from Corian® Solid Surface, and a plan was created to hang it in between the vaults. The lighting equipment is finished so absolutely no frameworks or seams are visible, and the parts connecting it to the ceiling are subtle as well. He added, “We decided on Corian® Solid Surface because it can be shaped, which keeps down the number of necessary parts and also sufficiently met our cost requirements. It was actually cheaper than using existing designer lighting.”



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Mr. Okabe said, “Even for an office, we believed that abundant spatial qualities and at-home elements were needed. The owner of J.S.T. Mfg. definitely understood this thinking—perhaps it has a strong awareness of this because it’s a global company.” The comfortably appointed office environment makes the company more appealing, and reflects their desire to obtain and keep talented human resources.

More information about J.S.T. Mfg.’s Tokyo Engineering Center:

Project name: J.S.T. Mfg.’s Tokyo Engineering Center

Address: 4-8-24 Taru-machi, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan

Corian® Colors: Corian® Solid Surface Cameo White

Application: Lighting

Designer: Noriaki Okabe Architecture Network

Fabricator: Apex Co., Ltd

Photographer: Yoshihito Imaeda

Submitted by: Kanoko Ishida