Buying local and staying local is how Gordon Food Service (GFS) built its new 386,000-sq.-ft. corporate headquarters, on a 50-acre campus in Wyoming, Mich., just outside Grand Rapids. Gordon Food Service is one of the largest family-operated food distributors in North America. The sleek and modern steel, concrete and glass structure reflects the latest in sustainable design, complete with oversized windows around the building so every workspace has a view outside.

Guardian SunGuard SuperNeutral 68 was selected for the project’s 55,000 square feet of façade glass due to its high performance characteristics with maximum energy savings, contributing to the building’s sustainable design.

“The glass selection for the GFS project was one of the most important, and ultimately most discussed, decisions made on the project,” said Scott Vyn, LEED AP, Director of Design, Integrated Architecture and lead architect on the project. “The desire to see both into and out of the building had to be balanced with thermal performance and issues of glare in the workspace. The amount of glass providing connection to natural light is one of the biggest changes in this new GFS work environment. Daylight floods the open office perimeter, often providing the only light source during working hours.”

Guardian also supplied the building’s interior glass. Within the building’s interior, visitors will find glass etched with the company’s values and photos paying tribute to the company’s 115-year history. “Interior glass is used throughout the building to visually link core business activities,” said Vyn. “The test / demonstration kitchen, interior stair wells as well as large and small conference rooms each utilize window walls to create levels of transparency, security and privacy.”

Focused on sustainable design, the building was built primarily with Michigan-made products and includes a number of energy-efficient features including floor air distribution, LED lighting and harnessing renewable resources from geothermal heat to rainwater, with natural light throughout the building.

SunGuard SuperNeutral 68 is part of Guardian’s advanced architectural glass portfolio, which offers a variety of appearance and light transmission options with outstanding solar energy control.