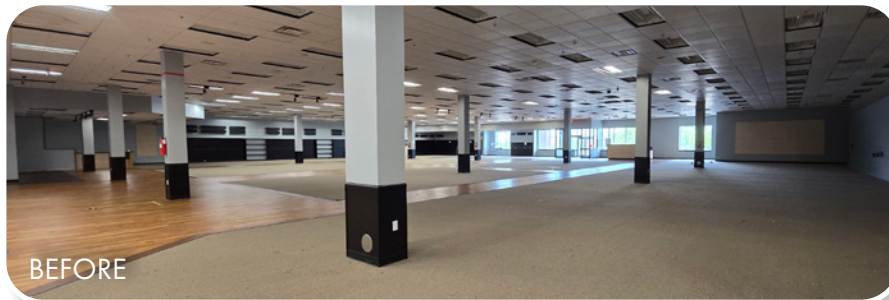


CASE STUDY



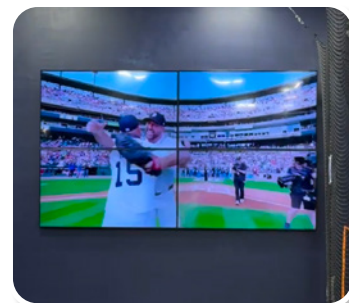
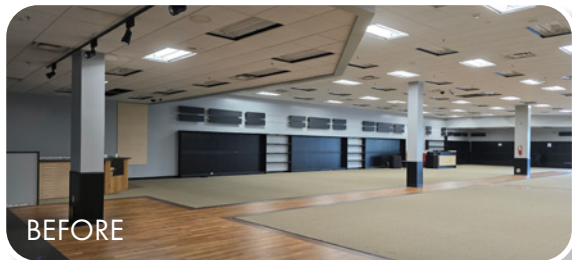
From Big Box to Big League

When former Detroit Tigers third baseman and catcher Brandon Inge and longtime FUNchitecture client Foguth Financial envisioned a new indoor baseball training facility, they saw an opportunity hiding inside a very unlikely space: a former MC Sports big-box retail store in Brighton, Michigan. Vacant for several years, the space featured traditional retail carpet, beige walls, and little to suggest the baseball-focused destination it would become – Inge Performance Lab.

FUNchitecture teamed with Conn Engineering to transform the former retail box into a high-performance training environment designed around the needs of developing athletes. One of the biggest challenges was creating enough unobstructed space for baseball. Three existing steel roof-supporting columns were removed and replaced with new structural beams, creating a clear span perfectly sized for an official Little League infield and multiple rows of batting cages.

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CASE STUDY



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The new facility goes well beyond batting practice. A dedicated strength and agility area features durable rubberized flooring designed to withstand dropped weights while providing a secure, non-slip surface for training. The open infield allows players to work on ground balls and fly balls in a game-like setting, helping develop the skills and instincts that don't always fit inside a traditional batting cage.

Lighting was another key part of the transformation. Outdated, energy-hungry retail fixtures were replaced with new LED indirect lighting that provides the consistent illumination needed for everything from making solid contact in the cages to tracking a fly ball across the infield.

Technology also plays a major role in the facility. New electrical and IT infrastructure supports large-format TVs for broadcasting games, reviewing game film, and analyzing strategy with players working toward college baseball and beyond.

The result is a FUNctional transformation that proves a big-box space can have a second act. With Brandon Inge bringing his baseball expertise and enthusiasm to the process, the design partnership was every bit as collaborative and fun as the finished facility.