Color, longevity key factors in sealant choice

Wanting to ensure that building joints on a 10-story addition to the historic Cleveland Public Library met color compatibility and longevity specifications, sub-contractor Harmon Contract, Cleveland, Ohio, chose Dow Corning 795 Silicone Building Sealant for the interior and exterior curtainwall and stone system seals on the project. The 250,000-square-foot addition combines hand-set Georgia marble, granite, metal and glass in a unique design that blends the original building's 1925 design with a more modern elliptical look.

Contractors also used Dow Corning 790 Silicone Building Sealant on air seals around windows. The silicone sealants allow more movement and hold up longer than urethane seals, thus guaranteeing a long life for the $90 million library expansion and renovation project, which was overseen by Cleveland contractors Turner Construction Co., Choice Construction Co. Inc., ColeJon Corp. and Ozanne Construction Co. Inc.

Silicone sealant meets specs for durability and aesthetics

When tenants at 125 S. Wacker Drive in Chicago began complaining about water-stained walls and drafts blowing in through cracked weather seals, property managers Frain, Camins & Swartchild knew they needed a long-term solution. But they also wanted a solution that was aesthetically pleasing. Looking for answers, management called in Mike Scheffler, a consultant with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., a Chicago-based architectural engineering consulting firm. "There was a lot of air infiltration into the building and water was leaking into the curtainwall," Scheffler said. Dow Corning 795 Silicone Building Sealant was selected for the recaulk project because it offered long-term sealing, durability and aesthetics.

After grinding out the failed urethane joints on the 34-story building, TNA Sealants installed the silicone sealant over a nine-month period. "The exterior caulking project went extremely well," said Gregory McGovern, property manager for Frain, Camins & Swartchild. "The inspection reports from our consultant indicated that the adhesion and caulk are holding up well. I greatly appreciated the help we received from Dow Corning."

 Courtesy of Adhesives.org
The four-and-a-half acre skylight

Miles of silicone sealant were used to glaze and weatherseal 5,000 panels of laminated glass covering the new Delta at the Opryland Hotel Convention Center in Nashville. Owners Gaylord Entertainment and architects Earl Swensson Associates retained Curtainwall Design and Consulting (CDC), Inc., Dallas, Texas, for technical input on the structural glazing system and sealant that would be required to construct the 4.5 acre Delta skylight.

CDC specified Dow Corning 795 Silicone Building Sealant as the structural adhesive to seal the horizontal edges of the glass to the frame and as a four-sided weatherseal, forming a continuous waterproof seal. Dow Corning 790 Silicone Building Sealant was used as an adhesive for the EPDM foam closure between the skylight sill and the metal panels of the structure. The skylight was constructed by John W. McDougall Co., Nashville, Tennessee.

Working on such a large scale with such a sophisticated system was made easier by the teamwork between contractor, consultant, architect and suppliers. John McDougall, Jr., said, “Everyone responded and cooperated. It was a fabulous job to be involved with – it was demanding, but delightful.”

The Delta, Opryland Hotel Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee

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