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IOWA CITY (IA) FIRE STATION #4

Multiple petersen metal panel profiles highlight leed gold fire station

After literally two decades in the planning, the new Iowa City (IA) Fire Station #4 is complete and providing improved service to the northeast section of Iowa City. Located on a high-visibility site, the LEED Gold facility establishes a prominent visual presence for the fire department in the center of the service area.

The 11,300 sq. ft. facility is comprised of two distinct elements: the apparatus bay and the service/living area. The apparatus bay features a drive-through design which is very popular among firefighters when possible.

Environmental impact and sustainability were forefront in the design from the selection of materials and systems to the arrangement of the building. Architectural design for the project was provided by Rohrbach Associates PC, Iowa City.

Approximately 18,000 sq. ft. of PAC-CLAD material in three different profiles were utilized to meet design objectives. The project included 13,815 sq. ft. of 24 gauge Tite-Loc Curved, Tapered and Straight Panels; 2,520 sq. ft. of .032 aluminum PAC-750 Soffit Panels; and 1,600 sq. ft. of PAC-3000 AP Aluminum Plate Panels.

“We had planned on a metal roof and wall panels since the early stages of the design,” according to Will Downing, project architect. “Metal provided design flexibility for the roofs and walls plus good durability and economy. Our office uses metal on a regular basis because of its inherent capabilities and visual appeal.”

The installation of all roof and wall panels was done by Modern Builders, Inc., Janesville, IA. The Tite-Loc

Panels used to roof the apparatus bay were curved on-site. “We do a lot of work with Petersen,” said Patrick Buckingham, architectural draftsman, who oversaw the project. “Their people are easy to work with and very responsive.”

The PAC-3000 AP Wall Panels were used to link the various levels of the roof. “The aluminum plate panels were an upgrade instead of using a thinner sheet material as originally planned,” Downing said. The AP Panels were installed last to assure that joints lined up properly.

The greatest design challenge, according to Downing, was adapting the concept to the site. “In order to lessen the impact of the facility on the adjacent protected slope and natural land shared with neighboring residential lots, the east wall of the apparatus bay is engaged into the hill to serve as part of the retaining wall structure,” Downing said. “The lower service/living area is placed in front of the taller apparatus bay to provide a more gradual vertical appearance.”

The fire station is expected to play a role in promoting development in the area. “The city and the fire department both wanted a ‘stand-out’ design to be seen by people as they enter from the northeast,” said Downing. “The new station definitely provides a nice anchor for the community.”

Petersen, a Carlisle company, manufactures PAC-CLAD architectural metal cladding systems in multiple gauges of steel and aluminum. PAC-CLAD products include hidden- and exposed-fastener wall panels, standing seam roof panels, flush- and reveal-joint wall panels, vented or solid soffit panels, perforated metal, coil and flat sheet, composite panels, column covers, plus fascia and coping. All are available in a Kynar-based 70% PVDF Fluropon coating in 46 standard colors and 16 wood grain finishes that include a 30-year finish warranty. Most colors meet LEED requirements and are rated by the Cool Roof Rating Council. Custom colors and weathertightness warranties are offered. BIM and CAD documents are available for most products. Founded in 1965, Petersen’s facilities are located in Illinois, Georgia, Texas, Maryland, Arizona and Washington. For information on the complete line of Petersen’s PAC-CLAD metal products call 800-PAC-CLAD, visit pac-clad.com or write to info@pac-clad.com.

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