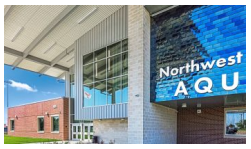
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NISD NATATORIUM AQUATIC CENTER

Shiny metal tiles create a splash for school's new aquatic center.

Fort Worth, Texas, recently was named the second fastest-growing city in the United States by the U.S. Census Bureau, and this growth is quickly spreading into surrounding suburbs. The 27,000-student Northwest Independent School District offers one example. A December 2021 report noted more than 4,300 new home starts within the district's borders in just the previous year, with 2,200 new students enrolling during the same period.

District leaders know that amenities are important to these new arrivals and recently unveiled the system's first aquatic center, with Olympic-quality swimming and diving facilities – and an eye-catching exterior design highlighted with a wall of reflective metal tiles. The new 80,000-sq.-ft. center, which includes a 50-meter competition pool and a 25-yard practice pool, along with space for weight training and sports medicine, has been a long time coming. The district's four high schools have had to rent practice time from other districts for their swimming and diving teams for years. Now, they'll be able to host events for others, with ample seating for 850 spectators.

Visitors shouldn't have any trouble locating the facility from the road, thanks to the striking reflective metal tiles that stretch across the façade, serving as a background for the building's main signage. Their aqua-toned reflective hue creates the appearance of ripples across the wall, like one might see in a pool filled with swimmers.

Unusually, the client specifically requested the designers with Huckabee Architects to specify Petersen for the tiles (owners more frequently leave such decisions to their architects or contractors). "They just liked

the look of the tile," says Dwayne Maynard with Heritage One Roofing, the Dallas-based company that installed the wall system.

In all, the project incorporated 2,400 sq. ft. of Petersen's Flat Tile, one of three tile profiles in their PAC-CLAD Precision Series lineup. The 26-gauge steel tiles feature a Bright Blue finish. Petersen also was the source for 20,000 sq. ft. of 22-gauge Highline S1 panels in the Cityscape finish for the building's entry and rear and side walls, and for 2,500 sq. ft. of 22-gauge Flush panels, also in Cityscape, for soffits around the building.

The choice of Petersen suited Heritage One Roofing's team just fine, according to Maynard, who says his company has a long history with the supplier. "I use Petersen 99% of the time, if I can," he says. "I've dealt with Petersen for 25 years – the service is good and salespeople get back to me on time."

The project kicked off just as the Covid-19 pandemic began causing havoc with construction schedules and supply chains, which put some added pressure on Maynard's team. "The project just got behind because of materials issues with other trades," he says. "We worked a lot of overtime – we were working seven days a week and 10 hours a day for most of it."

The extra effort paid off, though, with a satisfied client. "They love it," Maynard says. "It looks nice – it turned out good."

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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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