



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY BUILDING #3

Multi-profile metal exterior stands out in college's “innovation campus”

Working from a strategic plan outlined in 2014, developers of Wichita State University's Innovation Campus have turned what was once the school's golf course into a magnet for technology and manufacturing R&D leaders. Now, companies like aircraft manufacturer Airbus and technology services provider NetApp are incubating new ideas on the campus – and providing new internship and job opportunities for Wichita State students. Partnership Building 3 is one of the latest additions to the campus, and its contemporary façade highlights the versatility of metal wall panels as it incorporates three different panel profiles into one coherent design.

The 120-acre Innovation Campus was the brainchild of former university president John Bardo, who saw the potential in “creating collisions” between innovators of various industries, as well as between those corporate tenants and the school's own student base. In the years since ground was broken, the development has grown to include multiple partnership buildings, along with retail shops, restaurants and a Hyatt Place hotel. The consulting firm Deloitte recently announced it would be working with the university to develop a “smart” factory on the campus to explore new advanced manufacturing technologies.

Partnership Building 3 was designed as a 60,000-sq.-ft. shell structure by the local firm of GLMV Architecture, which also helped lead the campus's master-planning effort and led design on several other buildings in the development. Matt Cortez, AIA, president of GLMV and a lead designer on the project says the choice to use metal panels was an easy one – it's a common façade element throughout the

new campus. But, he added, the three-profile approach helped ensure this structure also stands on its own.

“We wanted to make sure all the buildings talk to each other,” he says. “But we wanted them to also have their own identities.”

GLMV opted for products from Petersen’s PAC-CLAD line for all the panels in this project, based on suggestions from the installing contractor, Mahaney Group Inc., also based in Wichita, which had worked on other buildings on the campus. Kyle Harryman, Mahaney’s vice president for metals, says previous buildings used products from other manufacturers, but is now opting for Petersen. “Partnership Building 3, Partnership Building 7 and a few more upcoming buildings will be based around PAC-CLAD.”

Specifically, GLMV’s design called for 12,000 sq. ft. of 22-gauge Highline S1 panels in a Silver finish for the majority of the exterior’s metal-clad areas. An additional 8,500 sq. ft. of 22-gauge flat sheet in Matte Black was used to create flat panels for surrounds around some of the window areas, while 2,200 sq. ft. of 22-gauge Snap-On panels call out the building’s main entrance as well as window areas on the two side elevations.

Cortez says the range of available profiles in Petersen’s catalog helped his team create an eye-catching design that also met the budget. “We are trying to accommodate lease rates that are manageable – to do that, we’ve got to be creative and give the best bang for the buck,” he says. He notes that NetApp has taken the entire building as it waits for its own purpose-built addition to the Innovation Campus, and there’s already a waiting list of companies looking to take over portions of the structure once NetApp moves out.

The multi-profile design posed some challenges for Harryman’s team of installation pros. “It was fairly unusual, especially when all three profiles can “touch” at some point – it makes the detailing very difficult and time-consuming,” he says, calling out the need for varying depths of hat channel to ensure all the panels lined up perfectly. He adds that time constraints added to the job’s pressures.

“Scheduling was tough because we were tasked with completing the entire scope within two months,” he says. “It took us two-and-a-half to three months, but that’s still a pretty amazing accomplishment for that large and detailed of a project.”

Harryman adds that he’s now sold on using Petersen as a supplier, going forward, thanks especially to the company’s customer-focus. “We have done a few jobs and I have liked everything about them, from

the customer rep, Scott Craig, to the salesman, Dan Sudkamp,” he says. “They’ve definitely made us a loyal partner.”

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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 Fluoropon 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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