More than 60,000 sq. ft. of veneer covers the Cedar Park, TX, center.

Commercial BUILDING PRODUCTS
SERVING ARCHITECTS, CONTRACTORS, AND OWNERS IN COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

Masonry System Makes A Restoration Easier

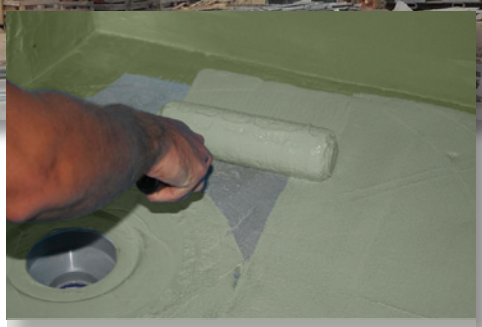
A veneer-installation system is budget-friendly and waterproof.

When the distributor of a wide variety of materials for exteriors gets excited about a new product, it's bound to impress his customers. Such was the case for Brent Cannedy of Specified Products, Dallas. His confidence in the LATICRETE® (Bethany, CT) Masonry Veneer Installation System (LATICRETE MVIS™) was an important factor when discussing options with Denver-based Dethlefs Sink Combs Architects. Cannedy urged them to change the original lath-and-plaster specification for a stone-veneer project at the Cedar Park Center in Cedar Park, TX.

Located 20 miles from downtown Austin, TX, the Cedar Park Center, built at a cost of $55 million, primarily plays host to the Texas Stars of the American Hockey League. The 6,800-seat event center features a natural thin-stone veneer, installed with the LATICRETE MVIS method.

Trinity Drywall & Plastering Systems, Fort Worth, TX, came on board after Cannedy spearheaded the change of the original specification. The company spent six months on the jobsite installing 60,000 sq. ft. of locally quarried limestone and Sedona Red flagstone from Cooper Stone, Jerrell, TX, on the façade of the Cedar Park Center. Two-thirds of the thin-stone masonry veneer features the flagstone in 20-inch x 20-inch x 1-inch tiles, with the lighter imestone used in the design to accent the support columns and architectural elements of the main entrance to the arena.

The Cedar Park Center, Cedar Park, TX, features a façade of veneer made from locally quarried stone.



LATICRETE® Hydro Ban™ weatherproof membrane is applied with a roller and turns darker as it cures.

Eliminating thousands of holes

LATICRETE MVIS uses proven materials and methods for a factory-prepared system that is freeze/thaw-stable and protects against water intrusion. Engineered as a complete system, LATICRETE MVIS includes a waterproofing membrane, polymer-fortified adhesive mortars with non-sag performance, a scratch and brown-coat mortar, masonry pointing mortar, and a 100% silicone sealant. According to its manufacturer, the system provides higher performance and is far easier to install than conventional methods, offering significant time and labor savings.

Todd Hunt, project manager and vice president for Trinity Drywall, also recommended using LATICRETE MVIS and had compelling arguments of his own, including the LATICRETE® comprehensive warranty. On the installation side, however, Hunt pointed to the protection from water intrusion as a crucial factor in his support of the product.

"[The system] avoids putting thousands of screw holes in the structure and the moisture-resistant barrier when attaching the lath to the studs," said Hunt. "Any time you can eliminate ways for water to penetrate to the frame, it's a good thing. We probably would have put around 120,000 holes through the moisture-resistant barrier to install 60,000 sq. ft. of stone. We shifted from a finished product with thousands of holes and no warranty to a building with no holes in the moisture barrier and a manufacturer standing behind it with a warranty."

The Cedar Park Center has a structural steel frame with cement backerboard serving as the base wall for the installation of the stone tiles. The option of replacing field-formed lath and plaster substrates with cement backerboard is another factor that increases the quality and durability of the system.

A liquid that protects against liquids

The first step with LATICRETE MVIS is application of a waterproof and weatherproof membrane. Trinity's crew rolled on two coats of the manufacturer's LATICRETE Hydro Ban™, a breathable waterproofing membrane applied as a liquid on the outside of a wall's structural components. Installation of the stone over the membrane can start as soon as the membrane is dry. In fact, the membrane itself alerts the crew when it is dry. As it cures, it changes from a light sage green to a darker olive green.

Trinity Drywall & Plastering Systems' crew completed the natural thin-stone masonry veneer installation by grouting the entire façade. Then they took a few moments to stand back and admire what Hunt describes as a "fantastic-looking building."

"It was an easy sell for us to present the LATICRETE MVIS," said Cannedy. "Not only was this method superior from a technical standpoint, it was 20% faster, which saved 20% of the labor costs. That's where the money is. We eliminated two or three steps and replaced a system prone to delamination and water intrusion. Instead, we used a system with complete faith in its performance, and we got a warranty from a reliable source." cbp

Reprinted with permission from Commercial Building Products, April 2011. On the Web at www.cbpmagazine.com.