



# SIKA AT WORK

## QUEENSHIP OF MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH PLAINSBORO, NEW JERSEY

Décor Roof System USING 60 MIL Sarnafil® G410  
FELTBACK MEMBRANE IN CUSTOM COLOR HEAVENLY BROWN

**Sarnafil**

**BUILDING TRUST**



# DÉCOR SYSTEM PROVIDES SALVATION FOR QUEENSHIP OF MARY ROOF

It looked like the Queenship of Mary roof didn't have a prayer. Over a 25 year span, the distinctive asphalt shingle roof on the Roman Catholic church had failed not once, but twice. The second failure resulted in a partial collapse of the roof that made the building unsafe and required parishioners to temporarily move their Masses to another location for several months.

"The roof is an engineered timbered structure with a radial pattern that all comes to one point," explained William Gittings, principal of architectural firm Gittings Associates of Princeton, New Jersey, and a member of Queenship of Mary's building committee. "One large steel bracket that supported the whole roof failed and the roof fell in about three to five inches at its peak. We had to do emergency shoring to hold up the roof. It was friction that held the building together."

Four years after the roof was repaired it was leaking again, and the exasperated church members wanted a solution that was not only aesthetically pleasing but would also offer longevity. "It was important that this time we did it once and did it right," Gittings remarked.

The Sarnafil Décor Roof System fit both of the church's requirements. The Décor Roofing System combines Sarnafil G410 thermoplastic single-ply roofing membrane with Décor profiles to give the appearance of a standing seam metal roof - and thanks to its watertight seams, the durability of this system is unmatched. It is one of the only roofing systems of this type that includes warranty coverage for the hot-air welded ribs that give the roof

the appearance of metal.

"Part of the reason for the previous roof failures was the low slope of the roof and improper flashing," said Gittings. "Because of past problems we knew we didn't want another asphalt shingle roof, so we looked at other options like a metal roof. However a metal roof was very costly and there were concerns about the sound if it rained during a service."

A roofing consultant recommended the Décor system, and Gittings liked how it had the durability of a single-ply roof with the aesthetics of a metal roof. It could also be ordered in a custom color - later termed "Heavenly Brown" - that would match the brick exterior of the church. Monsignor Robert Medley added that "Sarnafil seemed to be a better solution for the low pitch of the roof, and also had a longer warranty."

## SEEING THE LIGHT

It didn't take long for NU-TEK Roof Systems, Inc., of Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey, to find their first challenge in the roof installation. After removing the existing shingles and underlayment of the 9,000 square-foot roof, NU-TEK began to install new gypsum board over the existing nailable insulation. However, the tongue and groove wood roof deck also serves as the finished ceiling on the church's interior, and it was soon discovered that all of the electrical conduits for the church's lighting was buried in the nailable insulation board.

### PROJECT

Queenship of Mary Roman Catholic Church  
Plainsboro, New Jersey

### OWNER

Queenship of Mary Parish

### ROOFING CONTRACTOR

NU-TEK Roof Systems, Inc.  
Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey

### ARCHITECT

Gittings Associates  
Princeton, New Jersey

### ROOFING SYSTEM

Sarnafil Décor Roof System using 60 mil  
G410 feltback membrane in custom color  
Heavenly Brown

### PROJECT SIZE

9,000 square feet

### COMPLETED

July, 2014





“Obviously we couldn’t run screws into the board without knowing where the conduits were, so our crew had to map out the conduits and mark them by spray painting the boards,” stated Jeff Van Nest, project manager/estimator at NU-TEK. “This added another three to four days of work to what was already a fast-tracked project.”

#### **OVERCOMING TRIALS**

The shape of the roof – with its numerous hips and valleys – posed another trial. “It was a real challenge to lay out the membrane sheets so the ribs aligned correctly at the hips and valleys,” explained Van Nest. “Fortunately our Sika Roofing representative was available to help us work out the details.”

“The Sika Roofing representative was wonderful about sitting down with us and going through the drawings and specifications with us,” Gittings added. “He also suggested putting in snow guards, which was very wise. It made me feel confident about the design of the Décor roof.”

Gittings also commended NU-TEK’s work. “NU-TEK was excellent to work with,” he remarked. “Whether it was hand drilling the deck to avoid electric conduits or making sure the Décor roofing system went on smoothly over the complex shape of the roof, they were always receptive to our needs and collaborating with us to find solutions.” It was this professionalism that earned NU-TEK Roof Systems second place in the Steep Slope Category of Sika Sarnafil’s 2014 Project of the Year competition.

#### **A DIVINE SOLUTION**

Since the roof was installed in July of 2015, there have been no leaks and parishioners are singing the praises of the appearance of the roof. “We are a public place and want to attract people, so we were concerned about the final appearance of the roof,” Monsignor Medley said. “While it looks very different than the old shingle roof it is very attractive. Plus it fared very well in a winter with lots of snow and very cold temperatures.”

“The Décor system was the perfect product for this application,” Van

Nest commented. “I would definitely recommend it again because of its appearance and performance.”

“At Queenship of Mary, we were looking for a long-term solution that would also look good,” Gittings said. “The Décor system is definitely what we were looking for in terms of aesthetics and performance. We are very happy with that decision because it solved our roofing problem and looks great.”

Sounds like the Queenship of Mary has a long-lasting roof that looks divine.



# QUEENSHIP OF MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



## WHO WE ARE

The commercial roofing industry has relied on thermoplastic single-ply membranes from Sika for more than 50 years to achieve sustainable roofing and waterproofing solutions.

Sika is a globally active specialty chemicals company. Sika supplies the building and construction industry as well as manufacturing industries (automotive, bus, truck, rail, solar and wind power plants, facades). Sika is a leader in processing materials used in sealing, bonding, damping, reinforcing and protecting load-bearing structures. Sika's product lines feature high-quality concrete admixtures, specialty mortars, sealants and adhesives, damping and reinforcing materials, structural strengthening systems, industrial flooring as well as roofing and waterproofing systems.

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