

# Project Profile



## Project

C. B. Jennings Elementary School  
New London, Connecticut

## Owner

City of New London, Connecticut

## Owner's Representative

URS Corporation  
New York, New York

## Architect

Friar Associates, Inc.  
Farmington, Connecticut

## Roofing Contractor

Allied Restoration Corporation  
East Hartford, Connecticut

## Roofing System

Décor Roof System using  
custom color azure blue,  
60 mil G410 membrane

## Project Size

49,000 square feet

## Completed

December 2007

## Sika Sarnafil a Star Pupil at C.B. Jennings Elementary School

"Teacher's pet" is a term often used to describe a student who is favored by the teacher for his or her performance and quality of work. In some ways, Sika Sarnafil's Décor Roof System might be considered a "teacher's pet" of Friar Associates Inc. of Farmington, CT. Friar Associates architectural firm has specified the Décor system four times for Connecticut schools, including the C. B. Jennings Elementary School in New London.

The school district originally wanted the new C. B. Jennings Elementary School to have a metal roof for aesthetic reasons, but Friar Associates believed the Décor system was a better choice for them, according to Brian A. Solywoda, AIA, vice president at Friar Associates.

"The Décor system looks like a metal roofing system but has hot-air-welded seams and requires less maintenance, and we knew it would perform better than a metal roof," Solywoda stated. "In fact, we've specified the Décor system for the Science and Technology Magnet School of Southeastern Connecticut, also in New London; Torrington Elementary School in Torrington, CT; and the

Seymour High School in Seymour, CT; — all with good results."

The different shapes and angles of the roof also made Décor "the only roofing system that fit the bill," agreed Bob Bryant, estimator and project manager for Allied Restoration Corporation of East Hartford, CT, installers of the C. B. Jennings roof. Bryant pointed out that the 49,000-square-foot roof included a barrel roof over the gymnasium, eyebrow roofs, steep hip roofs, and cupolas.

Unlike a rigid standing seam roof, the Décor Roof system is made up of Sika Sarnafil's G410 thermoplastic single-ply roofing membrane, which is flexible and can easily conform to different shapes. The Décor's Profiles and/or Battens are made of the same product formulation as the membrane, and are permanently fused to the Sarnafil® membrane with a hot-air welder to give the appearance of a standing seam metal roof.

Timothy Fitzgerald, project manager at URS Corporation of New York, NY, who served as the owner's representation on this project, stated, "The intricacy of the roof meant there were a lot of transitions that would've been difficult with a standing seam metal roof. The Décor system was the better choice for the job."

The Sika logo, featuring the word "Sika" in a stylized, bold, yellow font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to its right, set against a red triangular background.

The Sarnafil logo, featuring the word "Sarnafil" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to its right.

Solywoda added, "The nice thing about the Décor system is that we could use one roofing system to cover the entire geometry of the roof. That means there is one single-source warranty for the entire roof, which is good for the owner."

### A Multiple Choice Installation

The numerous transitions from one roofing shape to another was not the only challenge posed during the roof's installation. Another challenge was access to the building, which is bound by a historical municipal and industrial complex to the north and west and by single-family residences to the east and south.

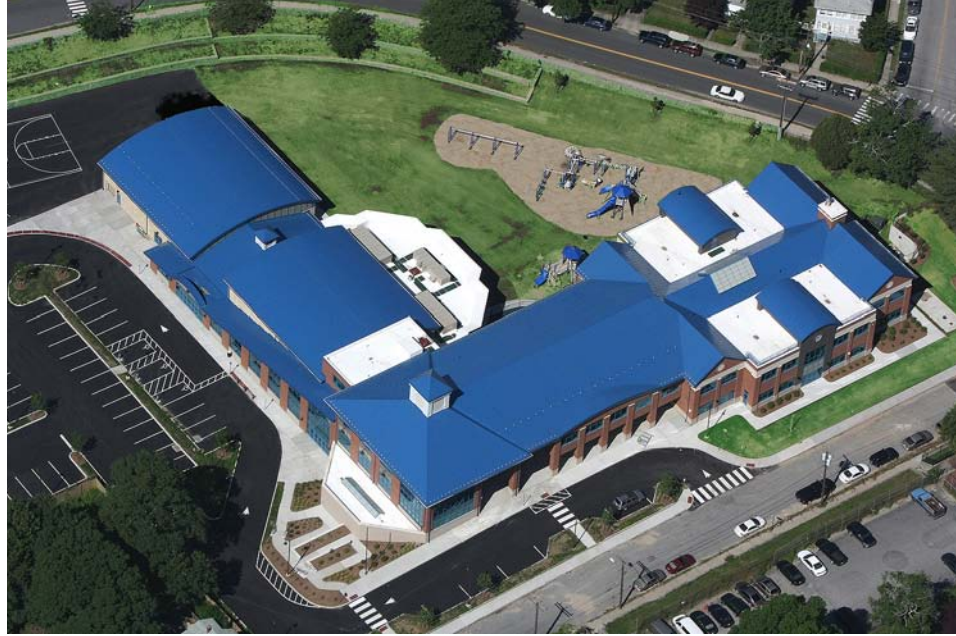
"The building is in a highly visible area that was in a tight spot, so access was difficult," said Bryant. "Special care had to be taken when moving materials to the job site."

Safety was another big factor. "This project required staging throughout for safety," Bryant explained. "We had to use scaffolding, safety harnesses, basket lifts and cranes."

Because the roof is so visible, all aspects of the job were under a high level of scrutiny. The Décor profiles had to be lined up correctly along the hips and valleys of the roof, many of which had varying pitch angles. There were also many snow guards requiring flashing of each base plate and bracket.

The segmented sheet metal rake edge fascia of the barrel roof sections also posed some problems. In order to make the white PVC clad fascia match the rest of the blue roof, Allied Restoration had to cut the fascia to the configuration of the radius, crimp another flat piece of the fascia to it, and then weld a strip of the azure blue membrane on top of it.

"The installation went very well and Allied Restoration did an excellent job on a very difficult project," Fitzgerald said. "They did the job correctly the first time and worked safely on the steep slopes of the roof." As a result of their high quality work, Allied Restoration won



According to Bob Bryant, estimator and project manager for Allied Restoration Corporation, installers of the C. B. Jennings roof, the different shapes and angles of the roof made Décor "the only roofing system that fit the bill."

Second Place in Sika Sarnafil's 2007 Project of the Year, steep slope category.

Solywoda also gave Sika Sarnafil kudos for its customer support during the project.

"During the application process Sika Sarnafil sent representatives down for quality control and to make sure the roof was being installed correctly," he explained. "They also were involved with the specifications and initial upfront work. When it comes to customer service, Sika Sarnafil is top-notch."

### A High Class Result

The finished roof earns high grades for both its appearance and its performance. "The school roof is very simple and beautiful," Fitzgerald said. "We are very pleased with the outcome. I would use both the Décor system and Allied Restoration again."

"The roof looks great and is performing well," Solywoda stated. "We've been specifying Sika Sarnafil products for 20 years and have never had any problems with their systems. They make a good, high-end product."

"The Décor Roof System is state-of-the-art," Bryant added. "Nothing compares to it. The colors are attractive, it is relatively easy to install, and it is backed by a company that is a leader in PVC roofing."

Even more important, the roof passes the test of the preeminent evaluator at the school — the owners. "The school districts are very pleased, which is evidenced by the fact that they keep specifying it," Bryant said.

Making it a teacher's pet indeed.



Décor Profiles, or "Ribs," give the vinyl roof the look of standing seam metal. The Profiles have the same product formulation as the membrane, ensuring that colors will match, both initially and over time.

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