

Project Profile



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Project

Illinois Holocaust Museum
& Education Center
Skokie, Illinois

Owner

Holocaust Memorial
Foundation of Illinois

Architect

Tigerman McCurry Architects
Chicago, Illinois

Roofing Consultant

Building Technology Associates, Inc.
Homewood, Illinois

Roofing Contractor

A-1 Roofing Company
Elk Grove Village, Illinois

Roofing System

Décor Roof System using 60 mil
Sarnafil® G410 feltback membranes
in lead grey and white colors

Project Size

25,600 square feet

Completed

September 2008

Décor Roof Sets the Mood at Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center

Imagine walking through a dark room as you hear Holocaust survivors describe their deportations to concentration camps. Ahead you see a German rail car of the type used by the Nazis to transport victims. As you continue your journey you view Simon Wiesenthal's desk and eyeglasses, the original volume of the Nuremberg Trial transcripts, and artwork made in the concentration camps.

These are some of the experiences visitors can expect when attending the new 65,000 square foot Holocaust Museum and Education Center (IHMEC) in Skokie, Illinois. When it opens on April 19, 2009, the IHMEC will be the largest center in the Midwest dedicated to preserving the memories of the six million lives lost in the Holocaust and teaching current and future generations about the need to fight hatred, intolerance and indifference. In addition to exhibitions, the IHMEC will also feature an educational center that can host 250,000 students per year and that includes an auditorium, library, technology center, and classrooms and training facilities.

The striking structure, designed by Tigerman

McCurry Architects of Chicago, features both a "dark," building with a steep gable roof and a "light" building with a barrel roof. The "dark" side symbolizes the historical context of the Holocaust and other acts of genocide and hatred, whereas the "light" side represents liberation, immigration and rebirth.

Décor Roof System a "Logical Choice"

Finding a roofing system that could accommodate the different roof shapes as well as the contrasting roof colors was not an easy task. "At first we looked at standing seam metal roofs to evoke an industrial feel to the 'dark' building," said Dennis McNeil, senior design consultant for Building Technology Associates, a roofing and waterproofing consulting firm in Homewood, IL. "However, when we looked at the interfaces between the gable and barrel roofs we realized the flashings and such would be a nightmare with a standing seam roof."

Meanwhile, a reflective, light colored roofing membrane was desired for the "light" side of the building as well as for the non-visible parts of the "dark" side. "We were already planning to use a Sika Sarnafil 60-mil reinforced PVC membrane on those areas,



but we found the Décor Roof System would give us the look we wanted and allow us to use the same membrane for both the gable and barrel roof," McNeil stated.

The Décor Roof System combines Sika Sarnafil's G410 thermoplastic single-ply roofing membrane with Décor profiles and/or battens to give the appearance of a standing seam metal roof. This system utilizes Sika Sarnafil's time-tested vinyl membrane and is the only roofing system of this type that includes warranty coverage for the hot-air welded ribs that give the roof the appearance of metal.

"There was a 36 by 36 inch pattern on the dark grey side of the building and an 18 by 18 pattern on the light side, which could be easily produced with the Décor battens," said Harold Di Vito, architect and project manager at Tigerman McCurry. "In addition, Sika Sarnafil was able to match the exact color of the grey building, making the decision to go with it a no-brainer."

The fact that the Décor system was recommended by McNeil also put Di Vito at ease. "McNeil is very honest and does a great job," Di Vito said. "We trust him with our eyes closed. He said we should use the Décor system and he was right!"

A Very Challenging Installation

"This installation was very difficult because you had a barrel roof meeting a gabled roof with lots of different angles," said Dave Rabin, vice president of A-1 Roofing Company in Elk Grove Village, IL. In addition to the two roof styles there were also smaller roof areas that successively stepped down in elevation.

"The gable and barrel roofs comprise six of the twenty total discrete roof areas," McNeil explained.

"Fortunately Sika Sarnafil representatives were there to help — they are the most detail-oriented and best problem-solving manufacturer I've ever worked with," Rabin stated. "They took part in meetings, helped with the design, and came out on the job site with us. Sika Sarnafil gives you more service than most manufacturers."

The roofs had concrete placed over steel decking (crimp-curved deck was used for



A view of the Holocaust Museum while under construction. A Décor Roof System was installed by A-1 Roofing of Elk Grove IL. The facility's unique design called for a roof consisting of varying angles, two distinct colors and both a barrel and gable roof.

the barrel vaults). A vapor retarder was included on the concrete deck and integrated with the building's exterior wall air/vapor barrier material. Two layers of two-inch thick polyisocyanurate insulation were then applied, followed by a gypsum roof board. The Sika Sarnafil membrane with the Décor battens was then installed.

"The layout of this job was pretty intense, because the seams had to line up with the composite panel walls," Rabin said. "That's where the Décor system has a big advantage, because this would've been nearly impossible with a standing seam roof. In fact, the PVC membrane handled a lot of challenges and

details on this project that metal would not have been able to."

Added McNeil, "The Décor system was able to make seamless transitions between all of the different roof areas with fewer details. This is important to maintaining the watertight integrity of the roof."

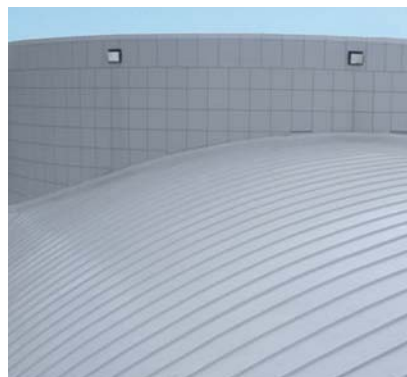
"The roof looks great and we were very pleased with the Décor system," Di Vito remarked. "The material is very flexible and we would use the Décor system again."

A Remarkable Result

The stunning aesthetics of the building combined with the mission behind the IHMEC made this project a source of pride for all who were involved with it.

"I really wanted this job because I'm Jewish and I saw this as a tribute to my Dad who fought in World War II," Rabin said. "This building means something to me and I feel very fortunate to have been a part of it. It is a work of art."

"The use of Sika Sarnafil materials, installed by an experienced roofing contractor with the field guidance of Sika Sarnafil personnel resulted in a striking roof on a monumental project," McNeil added. "It is definitely a unique and special building."



The Décor Roof System had the flexibility and the versatility needed to meet design requirements called out for in the Holocaust Museum project.

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