

Custom Brick Case Study



Custom Brick™ Scores Straight A's

Like many venerable institutions of higher learning, Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, has a design preference for red brick. Most of the buildings on the original campus date back to its founding in 1873. Today, as in the past, any new design must pass stringent review; and most still utilize this traditional medium. However, new challenges to design exist today that were not factors 130 years ago. The recent modifications the Patricia First Annex posed were just such a challenge.



In 1873, HVAC screen walls were not needed because there wasn't a whole lot of equipment that needed to be located on the roof of a building. When new HVAC equipment was installed on the roof of the First Annex, however, the contractor was asked to hide it from view. Further, he was told that such a screen wall needed to both match the building's brick exterior perfectly AND be light enough to be placed on the roof.

Naturally, because of its weight, clay brick could not be considered for this use. Enter Dryvit Custom Brick.

The screen wall was constructed using Dryvit Outsulation and a Custom Brick finish that was specially formulated to match the original walls of the building.

A special stone cap, matching that of the roof band of the Annex, is used on top of the screen wall for design unity. "It's really hard to tell the difference between the screen wall with the Custom Brick finish and the rest of the building, even up close," said David Liddle of Liddle Brothers Contractors, the Dryvit applicator on the job.

For David Miller, AIA of Earl Swensson Associates, Inc., matching the Custom Brick finish to the existing brick was the biggest hurdle. However, Miller had confidence in Dryvit to solve his design problem.

"We had used this product before and have had good response and positive experience with the use," said Miller. "Ultimately, we had a comfort level with the ability of Custom Brick to meet the needs of this project."

For more information about Dryvit Custom Brick, or any of the systems and products sold by Dryvit Systems, Inc., call Dryvit Customer Service at 1-800-556-7752 or visit us on the web at www.dryvit.com.

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