



FABLOGIC

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Creating Cornices

Innovative Uses for Aluminum Composite Panels

By Allan Pasternak, Owner Bamco Inc., Middlesex, N.J.

Architects and designers are constantly searching for new methods to express their visions on a buildings landscape. Contractors and their suppliers are then left to turn these visions into reality. There are often several ways to achieve an aesthetic concept, each method with its own positives and negatives. Sometimes a creative manufacturer or supplier with the ability to think outside the box can propose solutions that were previously not considered. Such was the case on Red Bank, N.J.-based K. Hovnanian Homes' twin residential Grandview towers recently constructed on the waterfront in Weehawken, N.J.

THE PROBLEM

The design architect had specified a fiberglass-reinforced polyester cornice at the roof perimeter to add some accent to the high profile structures competing with several similar structures in the booming waterfront development occurring directly across from the Manhattan skyline. The cornice would not only follow the roof line but would be incorporated into several "turrets" projecting above and beyond the roof to add additional depth and character. The shape of the cornice would have several projections, as well as multiple angles. This required the construction of difficult and time-consuming molds for the FRP that threatened the project schedule.

THE SOLUTION

That is when Hovnanian's construction team brought in BAMCO inc., Middlesex, N.J. BAMCO's local erection company was already installing metal siding on the mechanical bulkheads when it overheard conversations regarding the cornices. BAMCO, a company that focuses on the design and fabrication of aluminum composite panels, had previous experience in constructing difficult shapes from these materials. ACM has the ability to be curved, bent and folded into a large array of shapes with relative ease. By designing the profiles in-house and then programming CNC machines to rout the required profiles, BAMCO suggested it would be possible to fabricate the 40,000 square feet (3,716 m²) of cornice, comprised from over 1,900 separate cornice pieces, in a fraction of the time required for the FRP. Further, the availability of a large pallet of 20-year Kynar colors gave the cornice additional aesthetic flexibility. A mockup was quickly constructed and approved. Fabrication and erection followed shortly thereafter, and the project was completed ahead of schedule.

EVERYBODY WINS

Hovnanian Homes and its design team were rewarded for being open to new ideas. BAMCO was compensated for its initiative and innovation. Subcontractors and suppliers can be reliable, valuable partners and experts in their field. Architects and contractors are well served to avail themselves of that knowledge.