

PROJECT PROFILE

March, 2011

Client: Smith Performing Arts Center, Las Vegas, NV

- Whiting-Turner Construction Management/General Contractors
- Frazier Masonry Corp.



21st Century Technology Blends With Traditional Look

Powers Mechanical Anchors Secure Façade On Las Vegas' Smith Performing Arts Center

LAS VEGAS, NV—The Smith Performing Arts Center is unique in a host of ways, not the least of which is its “building within a building” design concept. The new complex borders on local railroad lines so sound-proofing along with state-of-the-art acoustics has to be a major consideration. To do that, the building has an inner shell with a lime-stone façade designed to make the exterior appear “timeless.” That exterior is made up of nearly 3,000 tons of Indiana limestone in the form of individual slabs that can weigh as much as 800 pounds each. Hanging these stones proved to be more of a challenge than the design engineers anticipated.

That’s where Powers’ Jack Stewart stepped in to offer a solution to what was developing into a serious problem. The stainless steel Hilti® product originally specified as the anchor to hold the brackets for mounting the stones was not ICC-ES listed for the project’s structural base material – solid grouted CMU. Stewart suggested Powers 316 stainless steel Power-Stud anchors - with the stainless steel required to stand up to expected corrosion from exposure to the elements. Coordinated by Powers’ Field Technical Services Manager, Kent Carlson, a series of on-site tests and evaluations were performed by an independent testing agency. “We did a site-specific test on the Power-Stud Anchors. We knew ours was a proven design that would meet or exceed the specifications, but we had to demonstrate that and have it verified by an independent source,” Carlson explains. “After about a week, the report showed that we were able to provide exactly what was required.”

Frazier Masonry Corp. is the contractor applying the limestone to the building, hanging individual pieces on metal brackets secured to specific Concrete Masonry Units (CMU) via the Power-Stud anchors.

The Smith Center’s Reynolds Hall is one of the most unique of its type anywhere in the country. It’s foundation is three feet thick rather than a standard six or eight inches because of its proximity to the rail-road line and its walls are two feet thick. Its ceiling is a foot thick concrete slab.

“Making this project happen in a way that satisfied everyone concerned was no easy task,” recalls Carlson. “It required exceptional co-operation and efforts at every level to get everything approved by the City of Las Vegas in a timely manner so the project wasn’t slowed.”

For additional details on Power-Stud anchors, go to www.Powers.com.



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