



BRYANT UNIVERSITY INTERFAITH CENTER

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2010 | Number 34

MASONRY SOLUTION:

Traditional Materials,
Contemporary Design



to inspired design and modern applications, both the venerable 147-year-old school and traditional masonry materials like brick and stone turn up with the most modern of looks.

Innovative applications included a rain screen wall system and reinforced lightweight limestone panels, which joined wide sweeping arches, radial walls and brick veneer to create the dramatic new center.

“SO MUCH MORE THAN A BUILDING,” is how Bryant University President Ronald K. Machtley describes the school’s new Interfaith Center now crowning the campus. Thanks

BRYANT UNIVERSITY INTERFAITH CENTER

SMITHFIELD, RHODE ISLAND

Architects: Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects

Construction Managers: Shawmut Design & Construction

Masonry Contractor: Grande Masonry

Craftworkers: BAC Local 3 MA/ME/NH/RI

New construction: 11,000 square feet



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BRYANT UNIVERSITY INTERFAITH CENTER

Visitors to the Interfaith Center realize they are in a special place as they are welcomed by a reflecting pool and pass under a dramatic portico that leads them to the lobby. Once inside, they can choose one of two centers: the Main Center which seats 250, and the more intimate Meditation Center that holds 40. One side of the Main Center extends onto a terrace that offers a quiet outdoor room for the campus.



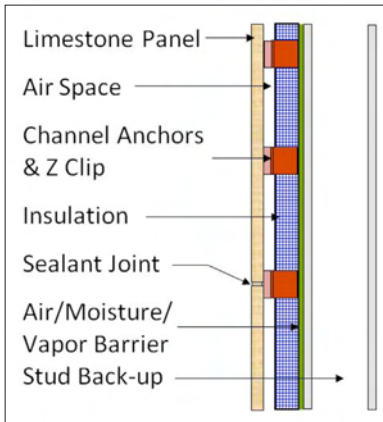
PROJECT INNOVATIONS

- Reinforced Lightweight Stone Panels
- Radial Walls
- Wide Sweeping Arches
- Rain Screen Wall System



The reinforced lightweight limestone panels consisted of thin stone (3/8") epoxy laminated to high-strength aluminum honeycomb panels.

MORE THAN A MASON



The new applications turned Grande Masonry into an exterior wall specialist, with responsibility for installing the air barrier, Z clips, exterior wall insulation, support channels, stone panels and brick veneer. BAC craftworkers installed the entire exterior wall system. IMI technical support on the details helped ensure

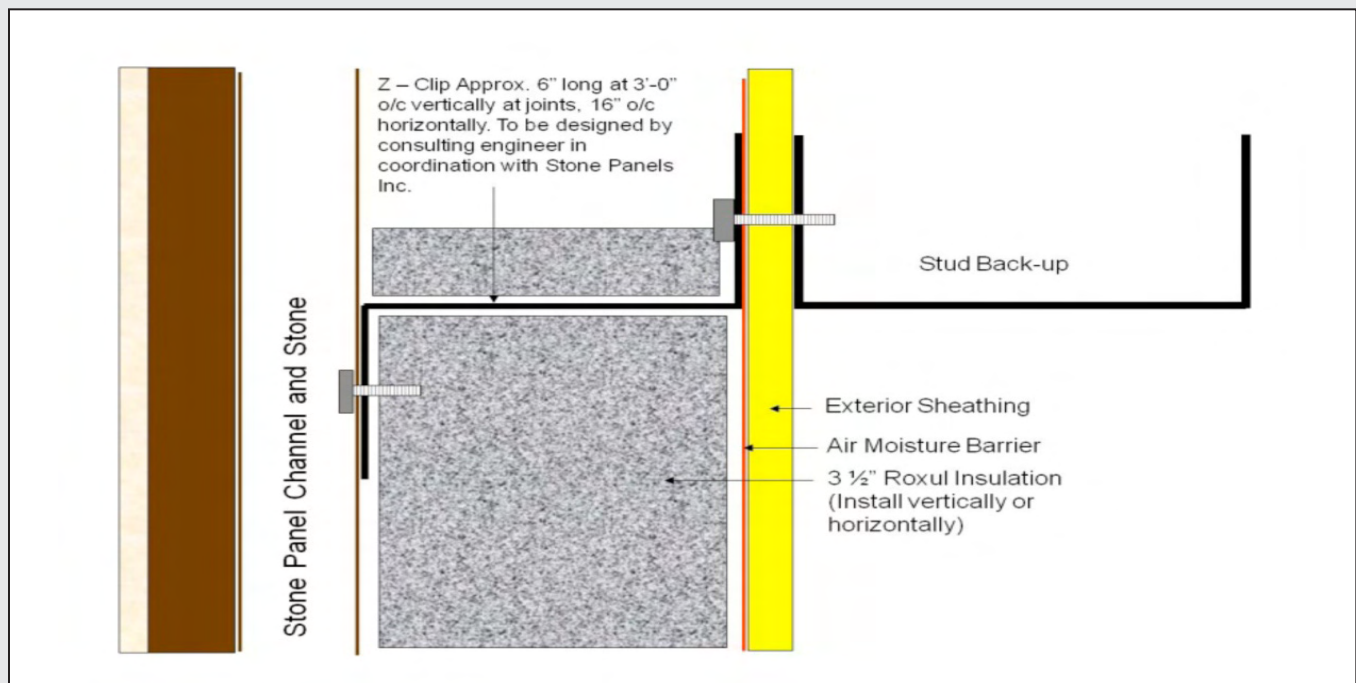
the winning bid for the entire exterior envelope. The team relied on IMI details which also helped to reduce thermal transfer and costs. "The whole key to the installation is making sure that you level and plumb the rails," says President Stephen J. Grande.

For the mostly limestone-clad exterior, a typical stone panel was 4' wide by 3' high, scored in the center to



create two panels. Stone soffit panels were installed at entryways. The main chapel's brick veneer, backed up with light gauge steel, used the same "Bryant Belden" as the library next door.

PROJECT DETAILS



SIGNALING WITH SHAPES AND MATERIALS

Gwathmey Siegel chose to distinguish the center's varying spaces and functions through the use of contrasting curvilinear, rectangular and square forms, including a square monitor roof atop the larger rotunda, and curved windows on all sides.

Both centers are in classic rotunda form, but the 30-foot Main Center proclaims its dominance as it rises dramatically above the building's 16-foot roofline. Further distinction for the centers comes from the 7,000-s.f. of brick exterior walls, in contrast to the 8,000-s.f. of limestone cladding.



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