

RAIN SCREEN FACADE INFORMATION SHEET

WHAT IS IT?

Rain screen facades, also known as ventilated facades or channel-anchored facades, are a modern adaptation of traditional masonry. Facing units of terra cotta (pictured), stone, manufactured stone, porcelain tile, or other cladding, are anchored to an aluminum channel system, which is anchored to a backing system of concrete masonry or metal studs and sheathing with an air barrier. The large unit size and mortarless installation give these facades a modern design aesthetic. Insulation typically is placed in the air cavity, which is ventilated and in some cases pressure-equalized. The result is a high-performing, energy-efficient masonry wall.

WHO INSTALLS IT?

The rain screen wall system should be installed by the **Masonry Contractor**. Clarify with your masonry bidders to include all components of the rain screen system in their bids.

WHY?

The cladding materials of terra cotta, stone, tile, and manufactured stone are masonry materials. The framing and anchoring techniques for rain screen walls are similar to those of dimensional stone. BAC craftworkers and contractors are trained to install these finish materials to exacting tolerances. With all components (CMU backup, air barrier, cavity insulation, aluminum track, and facing units) installed by a single trade, the masonry trade, the quality of installation will not be called into question.

QUALITY CONTROL

Part of your company's Quality Control plan calls for the best trained, most skilled craftworkers, no matter which trade. On behalf of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) and the contractors who employ their members, the International Masonry Institute trains union bricklayers for the installation of all types of air barriers. With a BAC contractor and crew, you can be sure the rain screen facade will be an expertly installed element of your building envelope.



BAC bricklayers installed the rain screen wall on the Cook County Domestic Violence Courthouse in Chicago.



BAC mason contractors install the aluminum support system and the terra cotta facing units at the Kerry America headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin.

This information is provided by:

International Masonry Institute
17101 Science Drive, Bowie, MD 20715
301-291-2110 dlafey@imiweb.org
www.imiweb.org

