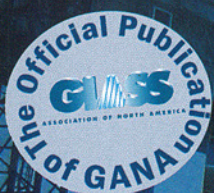


**INSIDE: Difficult Projects, Solutions in Glass**

# **USGlass**<sup>®</sup> METAL & GLAZING

THE MAGAZINE OF RECORD FOR ARCHITECTURAL GLASS INDUSTRY LEADERS VOLUME 44, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2009



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## **When the Going Gets Tough**

**Glazing Contractors Find  
New Ways to Tough It Out**

**Also Inside:**

- Building an IG Line from the Ground Up

**MOST REQUESTED AND LARGEST CIRCULATION MAGAZINE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO ARCHITECTURAL GLASS**



# One-of-a-Kind

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## Turquoise Place, ORANGE BEACH, ALA.

To keep these segmented lites in some kind of order took careful planning by the glazing subcontractor.

Doyle Bryan, contract manager of Glass Inc. headquartered in Meridian, Miss., spent more than a year leading one puzzle of an installation—literally.

“There was not a single straight line on the entire project; everything was a segmented or radiused system,” Bryan says of the glass in the Turquoise Place condominiums in Orange Beach, Ala.

“On the shop drawings you want to make sure it’s marked by elevation and packaged by elevation so these guys can have the right parts and pieces at the section of the building where it saves them time.”

—Dave Hewitt, EFCO

The building features a 24-story-tall, 75-foot wide, all-glass feature wall on the north side. In addition, two elevator rotundas measured about 35 to 40 feet wide and more than 300 feet tall.

Yates Construction was the general contractor that brought Glass Inc. to work on the project designed by Forrest Daniell & Associates. Oldcastle was chosen to supply glass systems that included 1-inch Versalux insulating glass units and green 2000T tempered glass. The vision lites and spandrel lites included common sizes measuring 46 by 94 and 46 by 23 inches, but there were countless pattern pieces as well. The

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The exterior glaze curtainwall added installation ease and thermal efficiency too.

## One-of-a-Kind

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

package was put together using EFCO's 5800 EWall curtainwall system.

"It's an exterior glaze system," Bryan says, explaining that the EFCO E-wall curtainwall is a silicone gasket-glazed system.

According to Dave Hewitt, director of marketing for Monett, Mo.-based EFCO, that means that the curtainwall offers plenty of thermal efficiency.

"When you have a typical pressure wall you have a thermal isolator that would be penetrated by a bolt that would connect the pressure plate to retain the glass into the frame," explains Hewitt. "In this case you have a structural silicone gasket that's on both sides of the glass that basically isolates

*continued on page 44*

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the glass from the frame—so it's got some of the best thermal values in the industry."

Hewitt adds that the system also is designed for impact resistance, primarily as protection from hurricanes. And alongside these performance benefits is one advantage thrown in for the design-conscious owner and architect.

"One of the advantages of that silicone gasket curtainwall system is the gasket was custom-made for a custom color to match the glass. ... it blends beautifully," he says.

As is often the case, the architect and owner turned out to be open to negotiation on the system installed. Yet the supplier ultimately had the last say.

"We had done three previous towers at the Cree Resort with the owner with E5600 walls," Bryan says. But EFCO representatives helped direct the owner to the 5800 E Wall to meet their requirements.

Everything was assembled on site—so the installers had to keep a close eye on which uniquely shaped piece went where, with help from the fabricator.

"Because it was segmented you had to make sure everything was lined up just right. It was not a simple, flat wall," says Hewitt. "On the shop drawings you want to make sure it's marked by elevation and packaged by elevation so these guys can have the right parts and pieces at the section of the building where it saves them time."

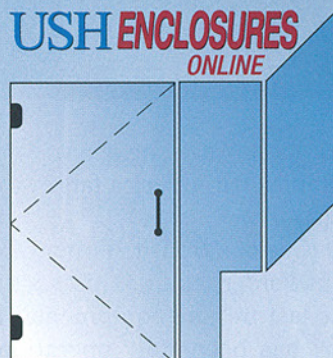
According to Bryan, "We devised a pretty efficient system. We were able to stock the materials by floor in trailers and then when the full floors became available we would transport it from the trailers to each floor and stock out each floor; we'd stock it by the unit itself."

To keep the installation running smoothly, Bryan says he found that it was key to "really just stay with the engineering department with Yates."

When it came time to span the massive feature wall, Glass Inc. brought in some special tools.

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"We used mass climbers ... all the way across the face of the wall," Bryan says. He adds, "Everything else was pretty standard straightforward."

The curtainwall choice helped ease the installation a bit, according to Hewitt. "The thing that makes it a little bit easier you basically engage a gasket into the aluminum so you don't have to bolt pressure plates on and then snap on covers."

All told, the project took about 14 months to complete, from the end of 2006 to the beginning of 2008.

Now, a project with so many segments to piece together might drive some project managers mad. "... When I say every single piece was segmented-radiused, it was every single piece, I'm talking from the first stick to the last stick," Bryan recalls. "On the South side it was inverted and out-verted—it goes both ways—and then on the North side the feature wall did the exact same thing."

But would he take on another puzzle like this one? Bryan's quick to answer, "Without a doubt." ■