

Case Study – Award Winning LEED Buildings from Studio 804 using STEEL-IT coating systems



Studio 804 / University of Kansas School of Architecture
Center for Design Research (2011)
EcoHawks Research Facility (2013)

About Studio 804

Studio 804 (www.studio804.com) is “committed to the continued research and development of sustainable, affordable, and inventive building solutions.” Now in its sixteenth year, it provides a unique educational experience at the University of Kansas School of Architecture. Dan Rockhill (<http://www.rockhillandassociates.com>), distinguished Professor of Architecture, leads a yearlong class in which students receive real-world, hands-on design and building skills.



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Background

The University of Kansas School of Architecture wanted to create a public center to showcase the leading methods of sustainable design.

Completed in 2011, the center is a passive structure that makes use of multiple energy efficient techniques including, an electrochromic, butt-gazed curtain wall; and a green wall that uses rainwater for irrigation.

The Challenge

Protect exposed steel in both interior – curtain wall window mullions – and exterior – outer doors, hand railings, and covers for energy recovery ventilators. Successfully treat and preserve the steel from corrosion and the elements while maintaining the look of steel.

The Solution

“Our decision to use STEEL-IT came after a long period of consideration and experimentation with many steel treatments and products such as galvanization, powder coating, marine coatings, wax treatments, oil finishes, Permalac, Smart Coat, Rust-Oleum, and Sherwin Williams’ Diamond Clad. With the exception of the STEEL-IT Epoxy System, none of these products were able to offer the combination of reliable interior/exterior protection, flexibility, ease of application, low VOC (required for LEED), and a steel-like finish.”

Giannina Zapattini
Project Manager, Studio 804
Center for Design Research project

“The doors have been exposed to the weather for a few years and still look great.”

Dan Rockhill, Architect/Professor



Background

Part of the mechanical engineering program in the University of Kansas School of Engineering, the EcoHawks Research Facility, completed in 2013, was designed as a space to find alternative methods of charging electric vehicles.

The Challenge

Compared to CDR, the EcoHawks facility incorporates far more steel in its design including beams, window mullions, and areas where steel is exposed to weather. As before, the Studio 804 team needed to find a treatment that would protect the metal without compromising the steel’s appearance.

The Solution

Based on its success two years previously in the CDR project, Studio 804 turned again to STEEL-IT.

“STEEL-IT has a nice quality to it and still expresses the steel. It has a look that bridges between raw steel and galvanized. We love the product because it gives you the flexibility to put the building together, weld, and then go back through and paint everything. That gives you a homogenous finish throughout and, importantly, avoids having to weld galvanized steel. As we all know, once you weld galvanized, you have to touch up with cold galvanizing – that’s a terrible look!”

Dan Rockhill, Architect/Professor



About Stainless Steel Coatings, Inc.

Since 1974, Stainless Steel Coatings has developed and manufactured the STEEL-IT brand of industry-leading industrial coatings formulated to provide superior corrosion-protection for ferrous metals. STEEL-IT’s polyurethane, epoxy, and high temperature resistant product lines incorporate a custom-engineered, 316L stainless steel flake that yields a hard, abrasion-resistant metallic finish.

STEEL-IT has been used extensively by architects and builders; industrial equipment manufacturers in the food processing, packaging, and pharmaceutical industries; and automotive enthusiasts.

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