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FIRE-RESISTANT FRP CLADDING FREES DESIGNERS

First FRP System to Pass NFPA 285 Fire Test

American Canyon, California - May 8, 2014 - Kreysler & Associates has developed a new, ultra-lightweight fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) cladding panel system that brings fire safety to the extraordinary design versatility of FRP. The system - dubbed Fireshield 285 - is believed to be the first fire-resistant FRP cladding panel to pass the stringent NFPA 285 test*. It allows designers to create large and high-rise facades of almost any shape, contour and texture that meet fire safety requirements under the International Building Code (IBC). For the first time, architects will be free to utilize fully the protean design potential and extreme light weight of customized, digitally-fabricated composite cladding.

William Kreysler, president of Bay-area-based Kreysler and Associates, describes the patent-pending process as “a proprietary blend of synthetic resins and natural aggregate that provides an attractive but extremely durable, environmentally efficient and highly fire-resistant product.” The NFPA test involves construction of a full-scale mockup of a multistory façade system, which is then burned and tested for fire propagation characteristics.

This breakthrough fire-resistance technology makes it feasible to utilize the versatile formability of FRP for exterior cladding to an extent that was not previously possible, allowing designers to give their buildings shapes and textures that would be either too expensive or too heavy to execute with conventional construction materials. Using digital fabrication techniques, shapes that have never existed outside a computer model are possible, both unique and repetitive designs, and panels can be merged to create large, seamless facades.

An example of the capabilities of the Fireshield 285 panel system will soon be seen on the façade of the new San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) expansion, designed by Norway-based practice Snøhetta in collaboration with local firm EHDD. The 10-story wall is clad in a series of brilliant white curved surfaces that bear a rippling horizontal texture recalling the waters of San Francisco Bay just a few blocks to the east. Fabricated by Kreysler and Associates, the 700 panels have a skin thickness of just 3/16 inch thick. Some panels are as large as 5.5 ft x 30 ft, and weigh on average only 5 lbs/sf.

Kreysler will be exhibiting the new cladding system and answering questions about it at the AIA Convention June 26-28, 2014 at booth #1907 of the McCormick Place convention center, North Building, in Chicago.

*NFPA 285: Standard Fire Test Method For Evaluation Of Fire Propagation Characteristics Of Exterior Non-Load-Bearing Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components



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