



Corporate HQ



Corporate Headquarters Gets A New Look With Brick Fiber Cement Panels

When OFM manufacturers and distributors of office furnishings needed more space for their growing business, owners Abel and Barbara Zalberg along with son Blake turned to general contractors Steel Dynamics for the solution to building a new headquarters and warehouse facility. For the past twenty-five years Steel Dynamics, has built and earned a respected reputation in the industry excelling in office, warehouse and multi-use facilities, including steel framed buildings.

In 2005, OFM was named one of the 50 fastest-growing companies in the Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill area, so the new space was long overdue. The result was a new 124,000 square-foot facility that included both warehouse and the new headquarters office space. The facility dwarfs the previous 32,000 square-foot OFM building, and includes a 4,000 square-foot showroom and 11,000 square-feet of office space.

Quality And Appearance Meet Board Approval

The first hurdle of getting the new facility built was the tough zoning requirements of Holly Springs, North Carolina. The requirement specifically states that any metal building is required to have masonry siding for all street views. Tony Martin, Vice President of Steel Dynamics explains, "We had to meet with the city planning and zoning board, which has specific appearance requirements for this business development. We also had to pass an architectural appearance review... Once the zoning board and architectural board saw the texture and quality of the Nichiha panel, the approvals went through". The end result was a mixture of Nichiha panels used on the facility; CanyonBrick™ Shale Brown for the office area, and a combination of ArchitecturalBlock™ Gray and CanyonBrick™ Shale Brown on the warehouse portion for a total of 37,000 square feet of Nichiha panels.



World Headquarters



Side Elevation



Rear Elevation



Front Elevation

The owners of OFM and the design team from Steel Dynamics liked what they saw. With eleven different textures and thirty-five colors to choose from, Nichiha panels added a huge variety of design alternatives for the team. Tony Martin added, "The variety of colors and textures gave us plenty of options to meet the zoning and architectural board requirements. The low maintenance and 50-year warranty of the product were also a plus".

Installation Benefit

An additional bonus for the Steel Dynamics team was the installation process of the Nichiha panels. "The speed of installation of the Nichiha (panels) with its clip system, allowed us to get the building closed and dried-in faster". The patented Nichiha clip system allows not only for a quick and easy installation, because special subs and special equipment are not required. The ease of installation that Steel Dynamics noticed was excellent, nothing to really compare it to. Being able to install (the Nichiha panels) so fast really helps in getting the build closed and dried-in, so the interior work can progress".

Cost Reduction Comes From Steel

As with any construction project, material costs were also a factor. "Nichiha was competitively priced with masonry in the area. The real saving was in the steel and concrete", explains Martin. "By using Nichiha instead of brick masonry, we were able to save some money on concrete by not having to pour a brick footing. Due to wind-loading regulations for real masonry on a metal building, using brick requires a stiffer structure which means more and thicker steel. By using Nichiha panels we were able to reduce our steel costs". Steel Dynamic has now used Nichiha on several projects notes Martin, "It's a great product and we look forward to using it (Nichiha panels) in the future".

