

Office Remodel



Exterior Upgrade For Dermatology Group Is More Than Skin Deep

The Oakland Dermatology Group and Marx Layne Company, based in the Forest Lake building knew their office facility needed a face lift (pun intended). The exterior siding of the building was stained, discolored and in serious need of replacement.

When your reputation hangs on appearance, the Oakland Dermatology Group knew that their building did not support their "brand". That's when they turned to their complex management group CFM. CFM in turn hired architect Lonnie Zimmerman of Siegal/Tuomaala Associates to explore exterior cladding options.

Mr. Zimmerman was tasked to research various exterior options, with the mission to find a product that; had an attractive appearance, was low maintenance, was backed by an excellent warranty, and in addition, the product had to be installed with minimal disruption of day-to-day business. Three options were considered; James Hardie cedar wood siding, Crane board foam backed vinyl siding, and Nichiha fiber cement panels.

After the initial product review process, Mr. Zimmerman and Keith Verbison, CFM Lead Engineer chose and presented the Nichiha SandStone Desert Beige panels to the property owners. Explains Verbison, "The Nichiha fiber cement SandStone™ II product provided the properties we wanted, along with a solid, rich appearance."

The Nichiha panels exceeded all the product criteria for the renovation project, including the "minimal disruption" during installation. The entire process from tear-off of the existing fiber board exterior to finished installation took less than five weeks; and encompassed a two-story, 100 foot by 200 foot building.



Tear off existing fiber board siding



In process



Installing Nichiha SandStone™ Panels



Project Completion

There were two factors regarding the Nichiha panel installation process that the project team were impressed with; one was the use of pre-manufactured corners (available for all Nichiha Brick, Stone and Block panels), and two the fact that each 18 inch by 6 foot panel installs 9 square feet at a time. Both factors heavily contributed to the quick and easy installation of the panels.

Larry Blanchard of LR Blanchard, general contractor for the project confirms the ease of installation. "We really like the clip system and how easily and quickly the panels installed. The expansion joint and pre-manufactured corners allowed a clean installation with very little waste."

With the nine square feet per panel (installation), we found that they installed faster than the James Hardie board siding we've been used to installing."

The low maintenance and fifty-year warranty also impressed the project team. "After having a bad experience with the fiber board siding on the building, we wanted a durable product with a great warranty and be low maintenance", adds engineer Verbison.

The SandStone Desert Beige panel's appearance went more than skin deep as Blanchard affirms, "The quality and finish of the panels are excellent, and they look like real sandstone." Project engineer Keith Verbison confirms "We wanted a richer look than what vinyl siding or cedar siding could provide; and wanted a look that the employees that work there could be proud of. We are very pleased with the results".

You could say that the building's "face lift" not only made the facility appear younger and more vital but was also an branding triumph!