

Nichiha's Illumination Series Enhances a New 25,000 square-foot Church in Arkansas

When [Guest Reddick Architects](#) were tasked with designing a plan for the newly developed East Side Baptist Church in Fort Smith, Ark., the group drew inspiration from geometrically shaped patterns. In need of a product to complement the church's aluminum features and irregular shapes, Guest Reddick Architects selected Nichiha due to the fast installation, cost savings and color design availability of the company's fiber cement products.



East Side Baptist Church, a 25,000-square-foot newly constructed building, houses approximately 1,500 members. Project planners for the church considered many different façade treatments and cladding products, but realized metal panels would put the project over budget. Nichiha panels were chosen through a value engineered process based on affordability and product durability.



“We used two different Nichiha products for the project: the Illumination Series Matte and Architectural Block, Sand coloring,” commented Scott Hathaway, project manager from Guest Reddick Architects. “We liked the way it was attached, and it was fairly quick to assemble as opposed to brick with a rain screen. Plus, with the large panel size, the installation was much faster compared to laying brick or block. We were happy with Nichiha’s development of a superior weather-tight system with its shiplap edges.”

Nichiha products offer greater color breadth and design options which make for a much broader choice when compared to other materials, including brick, block and stone. By combining the Illumination Series and Architectural Block products the East Side Church showcases the versatility of combining textures while maintaining a low on the wall cost.

In the end, Rich Rapin and the team from [Crawford Construction](#) found that not only did Nichiha products and processes help bring a desired, sophisticated look to East Side Baptist Church, but the product came in at about a 20 percent cost savings due to the recycled product content.

“The large panel sizes allow for faster installation simply because one of Nichiha’s panels is equal to 13 or 14 modular bricks,” said Rapin. “Cost per square foot savings, when compared to custom brick veneer and mortar, represents a savings in materials as well as time.”

The Nichiha installation is a clean, safe process. The products were installed safely and conveniently from a man-lift at high wall areas, whereas brick veneer requires scaffolding to be set up and remain up throughout the entire installation process.”

For more information on the East Side Baptist Church, visit www.eastsidebc.org. For additional production information for Nichiha USA products, visit www.nichiha.com.

Company Background

Nichiha U.S.A., Inc. was established 1998 and is headquartered in Norcross, Ga. Nichiha, an international leader in fiber cement technology for more than 35 years, has 13 plants worldwide and markets distinct patterns of fiber cement siding products in the U.S. In 2007, Nichiha opened its first U.S. manufacturing plant in Macon, Ga., responding to an increase in demand for fiber cement products in the Southeast market. For more information, call 1.86.NICHIHA1 or visit our website at nichiha.com.