



NICHIHA CASE STUDY

Children's Ministry Addition Adds Vibrant Hues to Texas Church

Nichiha Illumination Used Inside & Out for a Kid-Friendly Aesthetic

Places of worship across the United States often adhere to traditional architectural styles, with Gothic, Romanesque, or Colonial Revival being the most prominent. At the same time, a growing number of religious institutions are incorporating more modern designs in any renovations they undertake.

When church leaders decided to construct a new children's ministry at the First Baptist Church in Lewisville, TX, they charged designers to foster a more vibrant aesthetic for the addition, which would be annexed directly adjacent to the church's main area of worship. The existing church harkened back to traditional architectural styles, and the addition was intended to serve as a dynamic, engaging area for children.

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PROJECT DETAILS

LOCATION

Lewisville, TX

PRODUCTS

[Illumination](#) - Custom Color

TIMELINE

August 2018 - December 2019

TYPE

Commercial

ARCHITECT

[GFF Design](#)

CHALLENGE

Complete a large child-oriented renovation of a well-established church in a way that blends its traditional masonry looks with modern materials and colors. Ensure this children's wing can withstand Texas' volatile climate.

SOLUTION

The addition of a children's wing features vibrant colors that are exciting and engaging. Using exterior cladding on an indoor space is particularly beneficial for high-traffic areas frequented by children at play.

RESULTS

GFF design used custom-colored Nichiha Illumination AWP to create a seamless design using cladding on both the inside and outside. Cladding durability in both settings will be resilient enough to withstand each one's respective hazards.

“The general contractor had not installed the product before. The Nichiha team was so willing to set them up with the appropriate training. The installation was seamless.”

MICHAEL LEHR, ASSOCIATE AND STUDIO DIRECTOR, GFF DESIGN



The expansion featured a dedicated vehicle turnaround and drop-off area for families. It also had the double usage of being a shorter walk for older members of the congregation to access the worship room. Appealing to both demographics was a design challenge that architects had to overcome.

Nichiha Architectural Wall Panels (AWP) proved to be the perfect facade solution for the interior and exterior of the addition.

Blending Tradition & Modernity

Dubbed “Kids At First,” the new children’s center presented an opportunity to blend traditional looks with an exciting facade that would reflect the church’s modern aspirations. Initially, the challenge was a tough one.

“It’s a very sort of Georgian-looking red brick, white column exterior that can be very imposing,” said Michael Lehr, associate and studio director for GFF design. “One of the problems they wanted to solve was to really make the campus, and the building itself, seem more inviting. With the particular emphasis on kids, we were looking for a fun way to accomplish that.”

Nichiha’s [Illumination](#) AWP quickly became an ideal choice, affording architects a durable building envelope solution that can be specified in custom colors. It is one of several Nichiha products in the [Color Xpressions](#) system, all of which feature matching trim pieces and a 15-year limited factory-applied finish warranty with no minimum order required.

“The vibrant colors that we were able to use with the panels was really strategic to that [vision],” added Lehr.

An Outside-In Design

Part of the 21,000 sq. ft. [Kids At First](#) addition incorporates two eye-catching designs into a glass-heavy entrance. Two distinct “cubes,” which can be seen from the building’s exterior, continue seamlessly into the north cube’s entrance. The south cube is fully integrated into the facility with elements only visible inside and from above the roofline.

Each cube has its own pair of vibrant colors that are the same on the building’s interior: bright blue hues on the northern cube, lime green on the southern cube. Inside, the spaces contain youth-friendly attractions like a play space and another worship area.

Nichiha’s [Illumination](#) AWP fit the bill perfectly. With a smooth, satin finish and customized color options for design flexibility, [Illumination](#) delivers a sleek, sophisticated look that delivered the desired result for the new children’s center.

The execution of the project speaks to Nichiha’s ability to be used for both exterior and interior applications. The bright colors demand attention, and their use is a deliberate departure from the rest of the masonry-heavy building.

The bright wall colors are accentuated with furniture and other details from similar color palettes, opening the door for a variety of complementary color details.

“We try to do a lot of fun things with shapes and color blocking,” said Emily Mendez, associate, interior design leader, and director of sustainability at GFF design. “We always try to design spaces to be a backdrop to whatever the church wants to do that week or that month. Really strong color blocking or interesting shapes allows it to serve as a fun backdrop.”

Looks That Last

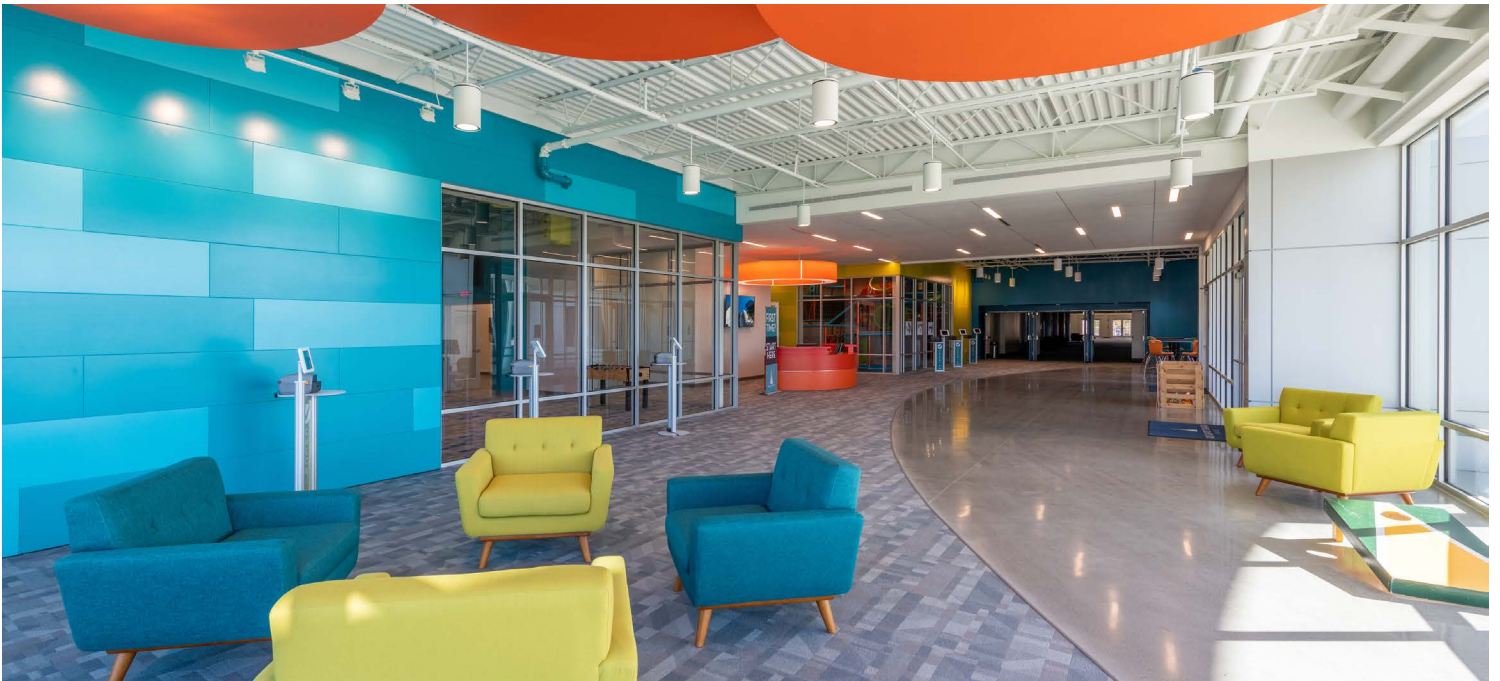
Part of what made the exterior and [interior installation](#) such a simple process was a guided installation with Nichiha’s technical and sales teams.

“The general contractor had not installed the product before,” said Lehr. “[The Nichiha] team was so willing to set them up with the appropriate training. The installation was seamless.”

The custom-colored Illumination installed the same way inside as it did outside. In both locations, the cladding has robust durability that can protect against hail damage.

“Dallas and Tarrant counties are the highest in the country for hail damage,” said Mendez. “Most [insurance claims] have to do with roofs. But we know rain or hail doesn’t always fall straight down. Having a durable product that can withstand something like that is helpful to us as architects.”

Designers agree that the innovative use of Nichiha AWP significantly elevated the project’s aesthetic appeal and durability. The ability to use fiber cement both indoors and outdoors opened new possibilities for design expression, making it easier than ever to create a cohesive and visually striking interior-exterior aesthetic.



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Nichiha USA, Inc., a subsidiary of Nichiha Corporation, was established 1998 and is headquartered in Johns Creek, GA. Nichiha Corporation, 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.NICHIBA1 or visit www.nichiha.com.

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