



Cedar Rapids
Public Library in
Cedar Rapids



Photos: Mark Kempf Photography

PROJECT REPORT

Cedar Rapids Public Library

Cedar Rapids, IA

ARCHITECT

OPN Architects, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Knutson Construction

FABRICATOR

Metal Design Systems, Inc. (MDS)

INSTALLER

Architectural Wall Systems

PRODUCT

14,000 square feet Reynobond® 4mm FR Composite Material

SURFACE

Design Line™ Zinc Patina

APPLICATION

High-performance, pressure-equalized rainscreen

CERTIFICATION

LEED® Platinum-certified

ABOUT

The new Cedar Rapids Public Library is a vibrant, multipurpose destination with spaces for the community to mix and collaborate. A community-driven project commissioned to replace the previous library lost in the devastating flood, the resilient structure was designed to withstand such an event. The unique architecture makes a statement that heightens the building's presence in the community while easily being identified as a library.

To distinguish the architecture, irregularly sized Reynobond® composite panels finished with the Design Line™ Zinc Patina coating were layered in random patterns on the exterior walls of the library's three-story wing, creating an interesting visual counterpoint while also creating a sense of depth and contrast to the smooth surface materials used on other areas of the building.

The project had a non-repeating pattern of high- and low-panel projections with each panel having its own specific location. A large 5-foot panel was required for the base and smaller variations were then layered and applied in a random pattern. Lighting panels were also integrated into the panel system. The panels were more or less a unitized assembly, which greatly reduced the number of individual panels to be installed. Further, the system is non-progressive, so that individual metal or lighting panels can be easily removed or replaced.

Much of the Reynobond® composite material is accessible to library patrons enjoying the green roof garden. The Design Line Zinc Patina finish alleviated the architects' concern about the potential for "fingerprinting" if the project had used natural zinc.

Reynobond® composite material with the Design Line Zinc Patina coating delivered exactly what the design/build team was looking for: a crisp, clean, sophisticated look and a durable and easy-to-work-with material that could accommodate a 5-foot base panel and achieve their objective of an articulated surface.



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