

# Hotel Contessa Suites

In July 2005, Harvey Builders invited NOW Specialties to bid on the Hotel Contessa Suites project, a new development in San Antonio's popular Riverwalk area. Project architect David Hess (Butler, Rosenbury & Partners, of Springfield, Missouri) specified curved, full-height, copper column covers in a mill-finish and dry set system. Panel joints were staggered, in a familiar but unconventional brick-joint pattern. NOW engineered, tested and assembled the dry system. Alcoa Architectural Products supplied the MCM (metal composite material), a 4mm polyethylene core, chemically bonded to light gauge copper skins on both the face and liner side of the material.



By late October, NOW had stretch-formed the aluminum extrusions, curved the MCM sheet, installed the column covers, and removed the protective film. Our crews took this quick snapshot while getting ready for the return drive to Dallas (see picture at left). Note the copper material's mill, mirror finish. When left uncoated, the finish of natural copper develops an irregular, uncontrollable patina, which develops along a spectrum of colors, from dark copper, to bronze, and, after many years, green.



Instead of letting nature take its course with bare, exposed copper, Mr. Hess specified an accelerating agent and clear coat, promoted and installed by Texas Access Controls. The end result was a beautiful, natural pewter color, perfectly suited for the elegance of the new Contessa Hotel. Mr. Hess recently said of the installation, "The project designer was looking for a unique, distinctive and sophisticated finish material for the columns located outside the main entry of this upscale hotel. NOW Specialties was able to exceed expectations with a custom copper column wrap with a unique finish." See the pictures at right.

With formal green initiatives such as LEED – and grass-roots awareness in sustainable development – natural metals are more often becoming the material of choice for owners and architects. Please contact NOW Specialties about your next natural metals installation.

## NOW Specialties, Inc.

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