

Minimally Invasive Spine Institute

When the Minimally Invasive Spine Institute purchased the old Circuit City building at Central Expressway and Walnut Hill in Dallas, they were very clear on one element of the building redesign: reflectivity.

The curtainwall, storefront, canopy fascia, radius corners, and column cover were all to be constructed from highly reflective materials. Several installers had already declined to bid on the porte cochere and column, which was specified as 18-gauge 304 stainless steel, in a #8 polished finish. Dri-Design was the specified basis-of-design manufacturer. We believed their rainscreen system and precise manufacturing process to be perfectly suited to this application.

We also believed stainless steel to be the ideal material. Stainless steel is chemically different from steel, adding chromium and nickel in lieu of a normally higher carbon content. Chromium allows the

formation of a tough, invisible, corrosion-resistant oxide which is self-healing in the presence of oxygen. This way the various grades of stainless steel are suitable for such diverse uses as petrochemical equipment, food equipment; home appliances, and architectural features. Its longevity and durability also satisfies cost and ecological concerns, as does the concept of retrofit. In other words, the greenest and most affordable building is the one that has already been built.

The results speak for themselves: a flat, architectural vertical wall cladding system with sharp, visual corners, modern design, simple detailing, and a mirror-like finish. The Minimally Invasive Spine Institute stands proudly as a new Dallas landmark, and deservedly so. Dri-Design and NOW Specialties are pleased to have been a part of the HDR project team. (Note that all rainscreen installations require a geographically-appropriate weather-resistant barrier. In this case, Vaden Acoustics installed the Sto Gold Coat barrier.)

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

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