



PROJECT PROFILE

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE PENCADER RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX
NEWARK, DE

You only get one chance to get the insulation package right in a commercial structure! Ayers Saint Gross got it right for the University of Delaware.

Baltimore based architectural firm Ayers Saint Gross designed this new residential complex for the University of Delaware. Their commitment to sustainability is clear through their philosophy as outlined on their website:

“Ayers/Saint/Gross is committed to sustainability in our work, our office practices, our research and through our people. We design all of our projects with sustainability in mind and have recently established a policy to test each project we undertake against the LEED standards. Our ultimate goal is to set the LEED Silver rating as our office standard. We monitor the impact of our operations on the environment and seek to reduce our office carbon footprint through reductions in energy use, material use, and travel. Our research seeks to expand our understanding of the impact of our work on the environment in collaboration with our clients and consultants. Our practice cultivates a culture where individuals consider the environment in their work and in their daily lives.

Ayers/Saint/Gross believes sustainability is about building smart and responsibly. That means maximizing the effectiveness of dollars and natural sources by considering the project's long-term ramifications and life cycle costs. It also means recognizing that no design or planning initiative exists in a vacuum. New projects should facilitate the institution's mission, respect its history and context, and help build a sense of community.”



Ayers Saint Gross did not lose sight of one of the most overlooked dimensions of sustainability and likely the greatest opportunity to reduce the carbon footprint through this design – insulate the structure the right way – a continuous sheathing of Dow rigid insulation on the outside!

THOMCO, Inc

314 E. Main Street · Suite 401 · Newark, DE 19711

Phone: 800-334-0227 · Fax: 302-454-7592 · E-mail: info@thomco1.com



Dow Cavtymate SC applied over the steel studs, sheathing and building wrap in this design.



Simply using fiberglass stuffed between steel studs only provides an average R-7.1. By using a continuous layer of 2" Dow Cavtymate SC, ASG was able to increase the average R value of this dormitory by over 40% and eliminated the thermal shorts caused by the steel studs. That's sustainability. That's significant energy savings. That's reducing your carbon footprint in a permanent way.



One of the great features of DOW extruded polystyrene—it is hydrophobic and will withstand exposure to moisture when exposed to the weather during construction and for the life of the structure when concealed behind the brick veneer.



Many designers continue to simply specify steel studs, a paperless sheathing product and an air barrier product. The client gets an inefficient building. This building is also not in compliance with current building code. Current code requires a continuous R-7.5 on the outside of the studs. The result of this design: Permanent inefficiency which will drive high energy costs for the life of the structure.



By simply adding the DOW Cavitymate SC insulation over the paperless sheathing, the structure now sports and energy efficient envelope for the life of the structure. At the same time you have added significant moisture control features to the building envelope.



The result of this design decision? Permanent energy efficiency at a low initial cost. More comfortable living spaces for the students. A great value for the client. A structure fully clothed and ready to face the future—whatever the cost of energy!



View of the Pencader Complex from the pedestrian bridge.

Photo courtesy of Ayers Saint Gross, www.asg-architects.com