



Company News

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America's First "Green City" – Greensburg, Kansas – Uses Tintex Glass from Vitro America within Community Art Center

Studio 804 Architects Establish a Master Plan for Sustainable Building in Greensburg



Memphis, TN – <June 3, 2008> Vitro America is pleased to announce its participation with Studio 804 in helping to rebuild America's first "green city" – Greensburg, Kansas. Approximately 100 miles west of Wichita, Greensburg has made environmental sustainability its rebuilding goal after an F5-caliber tornado devastated the entire county seat. Residents during the past year have begun the daunting task of reconstruction from scratch. A community Art Center has been constructed using reclaimed wood, along

with a protective glass wall using Tintex (green) Vitro glass that surrounds the entire structure.

“The Tintex glass provides much-needed UV protection and defers heat load on the building,” explains Boyd Johnson from Studio 804, Inc., designers of the community center. “The precision of the glass juxtaposed next to the historical reclaimed wood also looks fabulous – the subtle green glass tint nicely mutes the sheathing for a more contemporary look.”



On May 4, 2007, the twister blasted Greensburg, killing 11 people in the town of 1,400 and flattening most of its buildings and homes. Civic leaders and environmentalists vowed to utilize the disaster as the first-ever opportunity to re-engineer an entire town with a green initiative. Government leaders resolved to construct public buildings to meet stringent Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System™ (LEED®) standards for energy-efficient design.

The three-eighths inch (10mm) thick Tintex glass allowed designers to create a unique aesthetic outer layer for the Art Center, while providing the desired performance characteristics needed for energy savings and UV protection of the exterior. It was important to protect the wood finished exterior, since it was created using reclaimed materials from the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant – a local decommissioned military storage facility destroyed in the tornado. The wood from that structure, originally constructed in the 1940s, was reclaimed and revived for use as exterior sheathing. The entire Art Center structure was then wrapped in Tintex glass to allow visibility of the all-natural beauty of the wood and reduce harmful UV exposure.

Studio 804, Inc., a design/build program at the University of Kansas consisting of graduate architecture students and led by Dan Rockhill, JL Constant Distinguished Professor of Architecture, completed the overall building design. “Our goal was to utilize and protect the reclaimed lumber,” says Rockhill. “It provides energy savings and represents an important part of the community history and a visual reminder of hope and renewed spirit for a town reshaping its future.”

The Tintex glass was produced by Vitro America’s parent company, Vitro, at the Mexicali, Mexico facility, and fabricated by Vitro America in Dallas, Texas. The Studio 804 team remarked that they were pleased with how quickly Vitro America was able to produce the order to meet a short lead time for the Art Center’s opening on the one-year anniversary of the tornado on May 4, 2008.

Tintex glass offers excellent UV protection by blocking approximately 67 percent of the sun’s ultraviolet light, compared to approximately 31 percent for standard clear glass.

About Vitro America

Vitro America is a leading manufacturer, distributor and fabricator of architectural and automotive glass with quality products and dependable service. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Vitro S.A.B de C.V. As one of the largest producers of architectural glass with a knowledgeable workforce, dependable delivery and a long tradition of superior customer service, Vitro America has grown into a strong company that you can count on to be here when it matters most. www.vitroamerica.com

