

“Architecture can and should actively engage in storytelling.”

CASE STUDY
LITTLE ROCK

ARKANSAS
STUDIES INSTITUTE

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“Images include Civil War soldiers, life in the state’s booming lumber industry, an early female pilot, and a visit from President Harry Truman with one of Arkansas’ former governors.”

ARKANSAS STUDIES INSTITUTE

FIRM:

Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Timothy Hursley

HISTORIC PHOTOS:

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

LOCATION:

Little Rock, AR

SOLUTION:

Pressed Glass XT with HighRes interlayer

3FORM VALUE:

Powerful narrative with durability and light control

the background

Culminating an extensive three-year renovation project of a library, design architects at Polk Stanley Wilcox infused the site with history using 3form HighRes in both Pressed Glass XT for exterior applications and Varia Ecoresin® for interior applications.

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the challenge

Designer Reese Rowland placed emphasis on architecture as narrative and sensed the importance of engaging the public in a dialog with building owners. To meet the objectives of the new development, the building needed to tell a story that connected visitors with the contents of the archive.

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the solution

A picture is worth a thousand words, so designers placed glass fins along the side of the structure that evoke the pages of a book. The fins utilize 3form HighRes Pressed Glass XT to depict scenes and people from the rich history of Arkansas. The historic images were selected from the archives of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, which is an integral part of the Arkansas Studies Institute.

Additionally, 3form HighRes Varia Ecoresin forms the vertical segments of the hand railings throughout, creating a “filmstrip” effect that tells a tale of the past of the state, dating back to antebellum Arkansas.



Photo courtesy of Architects & Special Collections, UAR

Little Rock Foundry and Machine Shop, circa 1900



the results

Reese Rowland describes the project’s final execution: “More than one hundred glass art panels featuring scenes from Arkansas’ historic past are on permanent display throughout the building in the glass handrails, signifying that architecture can and should actively engage in storytelling.”

One of the strengths of using 3form Pressed Glass for the installation is that the images can be viewed at night while providing some sun control during the day. “The translucence of both the Pressed Glass and Varia allow light to pass through the panels so that the images can be seen from both sides,” said Ed Sergeant of Polk Stanley Wilcox.

the key benefits

- 40% recycled content in Varia Ecoresin
- Ideal level of translucency
- Invaluable assistance from 3form Advanced Technology Group
- Images a key part of the building tour

the legacy

- 2010 National Winner award in the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) \$15 million to \$75 million
- 2010 AIA Gulf States Honor Award
- 2009 Arkansas AIA Member Honor Award
- 2009 ASID South Central Chapter Silver Interior Design Award
- 2009 South Central Construction by McGraw-Hill Construction, Judges Best Construction Award
- 2009 Quapaw Quarter Associate Award of Merit



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