



LaGuardia Airport Terminal B



The Challenge

With 60-foot-high ceilings and soaring glass facades that fill the space with light, LaGuardia Airport's massive new Terminal B completely transforms the travel experience. Its grand-scaled interior includes green space modeled after New York City parks and retail spaces that mimic "Big Apple" streetscapes. From bridges elevated 65 feet above grade, passengers can take in views of the city skyline as they move between the Arrivals and Departures Hall (Headhouse) and Concourses A and B.

To realize the signature design of the terminal's grand-scaled interior, HOK architects required a distinctive architectural building solution to create a cohesive high-quality visual experience for passengers. Meeting fast-paced construction schedules in limited workspaces on the jobsite presented additional challenges with this high-profile project.

The Solution

To create the desired uniform look and feel while addressing more practical considerations, such as durability and speed of construction, the design team selected CastWorks™ glass-fiber reinforced gypsum (GRG) and glass-fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC) architectural forms from Armstrong World Industries.

Based on the architect's 3D models, the Armstrong CastWorks team fabricated more than 9,000 custom GRG and GFRC parts for installation by Cord Contracting in the Headhouse, Spearhead Construction in Bridge B, and The Donaldson Organization in Bridge A and Concourses A and B. The pre-cast components included column covers with recessed pockets for electrical devices, covers for beams

and diffusers, and complex components with compound curves for ceiling transitions and other creative design applications.

According to Lance Mueller, project executive at The Donaldson Organization, the preformed casting parts saved a tremendous amount of time in the installation and finishing of the column and beam covers. "Less framing was needed, and we did not have to finish the entire assembled covering," he explains. "The precast components were easily secured to the metal framing with screws and the seams were then taped, feathered in, and sanded to achieve a high-quality architectural aesthetic."

Case Study

Location: New York, NY

Product: CastWorks™ GRG and GFRC Architectural Forms

Architect: HOK Architects



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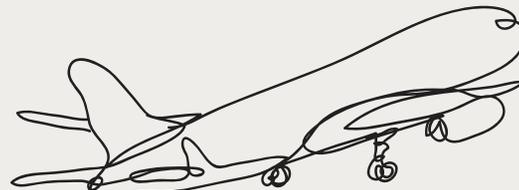
The Solution (continued)

Custom GRG and GFRC architectural forms panels were also chosen by the design team to create unique retail entry portals and curved storefronts in the terminal spaces. These innovative facades with simulated cast iron, molded stone, and other interesting finishes and features replicate streetscapes of iconic Manhattan neighborhoods, including Fifth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, and SoHo.

With tight deadlines and limited floor space to store building materials in the work zones, preplanning and ongoing

coordination were critical in keeping the project moving on schedule.

“The team producing the CastWorks™ components was very proactive in conveying potential design issues early on to mitigate potential installation problems,” Mueller says. “Their parts were precisely fabricated to meet the angles and slope the architects envisioned, and they were delivered to the jobsite on demand to ensure just-in-time construction.”



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