

The New Virginia Beach Convention Center

Balancing Form and Function

The new Virginia Beach Convention Center was conceived by city planners as the crown jewel of the city's 40-year master revitalization plan. As such, architects were asked to design a state-of-the-art structure that would help give the historic beach resort town a contemporary cosmopolitan flair. Capturing the abundant natural light and stunning beach and city views was a priority, as was hurricane protection and energy efficiency.

A Nautical Glass Skyline

In a nod to the area's beach resort history, architects turned to a nautical theme for the center's 516,222 square-foot design. A four-story glass tower and attached soaring nautical glass wall dominate the Virginia Beach skyline, a sparkling mast and sail over the sea of buildings. As visitors approach, the glass curtain wall appears to float in pools of water both inside and outside the building. The use of clear glass through the project infuses the building's interiors with natural light and visually connects the interior and exterior environments.

While the glass curtain wall serves as a striking design element, it also provides powerful hurricane protection. The interior lites of the insulating curtain wall assemblies are made with PVB interlayer from Solutia's Saflex division. Manufactured by permanently bonding a tough Saflex interlayer between two pieces of glass under heat and pressure, laminated glass in a properly designed and tested framing system, can be an important element in protecting the building envelope. If the glass is impacted, even by debris blown at hurricane-force wind speeds, it may crack, however, the Saflex interlayer helps keep the glazing in the framing system helping to prevent debris from penetrating the opening and entering the structure.

With sweeping expanses of curtain wall, architects also added Viracon's VE-42 coating to the insulating laminated configuration. This low-e coating couples high visible light transmission and low reflectivity for clear, two-way vision and natural aesthetics. The coating also offers an excellent u-value, giving the glass an enhanced thermal performance. A lined ceramic frit silk-screen pattern was also added to select areas of the curtain wall to reduce internal glare and further control solar heat transference.



PROJECT FACTS

PROJECT

Virginia Beach Convention Center

LOCATION

1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach, Virginia

ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP, Chicago, Illinois

GLASS FABRICATOR

Viracon, Owatonna, Minnesota

LAMINATED GLASS INTERLAYER

Saflex®, a unit of Solutia Inc., St. Louis, Missouri

COMPLETION DATE

January 2007



As the world's leading interlayer, Saflex is found in nearly 50 percent of laminated architectural and automotive glazing applications globally. In fact, Saflex interlayer is used to protect some of the world's most precious treasures, including the US Constitution, the Mona Lisa, and the Louvre. When it comes to critical applications where safety, security, sustainability and acoustic performance are a primary concern, automotive designers and architects' first choice is Saflex interlayer.



Unsurpassed Safety Performance

When it comes to hurricane protection, Saflex is the interlayer of choice. When used in properly designed window and door systems, laminated glass made with Saflex interlayer will successfully meet hurricane regulations and standards including:

- The International Building Code (IBC)
- The International Residential Code (IRC)
- National Fire Protection Association – Building Construction & Safety Code (NFPA 5000)
- The Florida Building Code (FBC)
- Dade County Florida product certification requirements
- ASTM International Standards and Specifications for windborne debris impact and pressure cycling standards

About Saflex

Over 75 years ago, the originators of the Saflex business started an entirely new industry based on the belief that glass could be made better through lamination. While glass was a common material in 1927, it typically occupied relatively small spaces in buildings. Through lamination and the introduction of Saflex protective interlayers, architects and automotive designers were empowered to able to rethink their traditional approach to glazing design.

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ARCHITECTURAL GLAZING SOLUTIONS CENTRE

The Saflex Architectural Glazing Solutions Centre (AGSC) is an international network that provides a comprehensive range of services to support architects and designers throughout the world. The AGSC can provide technical support, literature, master specs, testing data and samples, as well as, glass fabricator and manufacturer referrals. The AGSC also offers AIA CEU courses.

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