

Silver + Black = Green

METAL HELPS AN ENERGY COMPANY PROPEL INTO THE FUTURE

BY LISA ANDERSON MANN

CONSOL ENERGY'S ROOTS are in coal. The company has been mining coal since 1864 and is a leader in the production of coal-bed methane gas and high-Btu bituminous coal. Its long history melds with a strong modern technology focus; CONSOL Energy operates the largest private research facility devoted exclusively to coal-energy utilization and production. "Our goal is to be a major stakeholder in projects that ensure the environmentally sound and efficient use of coal, methane gas and alternative fuels," says J. Brett Harvey, chief executive officer.

Designing the company's new offices in Canonsburg, Pa., to reflect the duality of old and new was a challenge. "The CONSOL team was great," says Kevin Turkall, AIA, lead architect and president of Designstream Architectural Studio, Pittsburgh. "The company wanted the building to be unique and the design to reflect the character of the company. They were very open to our design creativity."

Metal roofing and wall panels provided the aesthetic the design team and CONSOL Energy were seeking. "Our idea was to provide a strong design gesture toward the

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long history of CONSOL while using state-of-the-art materials to reflect its future. We knew from the onset we would use metal," Turkall says. "We wanted contemporary, highly polished materials that would afford the opportunity to create crisp lines."

In addition, as one of the nation's largest producers of energy, CONSOL Energy administrators wanted to lead by example. They expect the new headquarters building, which is 27 percent larger than the previous building, to consume significantly less energy.

GOING GREEN

The metal and glass provide the desired modern aesthetic to CONSOL Energy's facility. Predominant colors of silver and black were chosen to represent technology and coal, respectively. But CONSOL Energy's headquarters actually is pretty green.

The project, which is seeking LEED for New Construction Silver certification from the Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council, is oriented to take advantage of ambient light and has controls that favor task lighting instead of general illumination. To help bring in natural light, the building has a 10,000-square-foot (929-m²) central atrium. The project features a 12-inch- (305-mm-) deep vegetated roof with a grass and succulent garden, picnic tables and plaza seating. "The use of vertical metal panels, metal soffit panels, metal surrounds on the mechanical penthouses and metal roofing panels allowed us to create really nice ambient light for people on the roof garden," Turkall says.

The predominance of metal in the design was useful in meeting LEED goals.

For example, the aluminum roofing panels feature an Energy Star-compliant finish in platinum silver that reduces the heat-island effect commonly found in urban areas. The metal wall panels feature 20.6 percent postindustrial recycled material based on weight.

A SIGNATURE BUILDING

The project consists of a 75,000-square-foot (6968-m²) building that houses Fairmont Supply Co., an industrial products distributor that is a subsidiary of CONSOL Energy, and the 365,000-square-foot (33909-m²) main building. From the air, the main building's roof forms the company's logo. According to Turkall, the canopy roof

