



Owego Apalachin Elementary School

Owego, NY

A Symbol of Healing

When Tropical Storm Lee hit the Gulf of Mexico, the community of Owego, New York was hit hard.

When the waters receded, the village pulled together to restore its infrastructure, including the school district. For that, they needed a great deal of help. Longtime partners of the village, the Pennsylvania-based design firm Highland Associates was among those that stepped up. Highland Associates had been working with Owego Apalachin School District on various projects since 2007.

Working hand-in-hand with the district, FEMA, the New York State Education Department and the state, the new facility was set to be built in the same place as the original but this time would be raised above the flood plain.

Strength, Resilience and Whimsy

This project was never going to be a mundane, cookie-cutter elementary school building. This was an opportunity to make a statement of strength and inspiration to a community determined to bounce back from hardship.

There were four major goals laid out from the beginning of this project. One was to create a space where students could feel safe and comfortable. Second was to design engaging spaces that extend learning beyond the classroom. Third was health and wellness, which meant maximizing daylighting and improving indoor air quality while chasing a LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. And fourth was to serve the community as a symbol of healing.

The exterior also needed to connect with the community, and metal was a clear choice to complement the surrounding structures and give Owego Elementary School its own unique look.

Market Segment
Education (K-12)

Architect Name
Highland Associates

Dealer
CFE, Inc.

Installer
CFE, Inc.

Contractor
Daniel J. Lynch, Inc.

LEED Certification
Certified

The design team selected multiple horizontal metal panels from CENTRIA with profiles that resemble residential siding. Sloped metal panel roofing was selected to resemble the sloped roofs of the surrounding neighborhood. Color was one reason for choosing metal. Shape was another. “We also chose flat [Formawall®] insulated metal panels for the main entrance and at the classrooms to give the building a distinct, modern feel,” Degnon says. “When you arrive at Owego Elementary School, you are greeted by the copper-colored canopy that identifies the main entrance. It was important to have just the right combination of color and playfulness to appeal to the children. There is a wonderful abstractness to the canopy that could only be achieved using a metal panel.”

CENTRIA's MetalWrap insulated composite backup panel system provides thermal and moisture performance behind the bulk of the mixed-medium building envelope. The product features integral attachment systems for metal, terra cotta, brick, and other façade materials, making it the perfect solution for mixed-medium exteriors.

Community Pride

For four years after the floods brought on by Tropical Storm Lee, children in Owego had to be bussed up to an hour each way to attend schools far away from their community. On January 6, 2016, students returned to the brand new Owego Elementary School.

There is a great sense of pride and community felt from those who worked on the project and the community that calls the school its own.

“From disaster comes opportunity. The new Owego Elementary School is a state-of-the-art, 124,000-square-foot facility that will serve the community for generations,” David Degnon, senior associate with Highland Associates says. “As design professionals, we learned to keep pushing the envelope of possibilities. It is our job to design spaces that evoke emotion. I’ve seen that emotion on the faces of the children who occupy the school, the faculty and staff who work in the school, and the community members who have visited the school. Highland Associates feels very fortunate to have been part of such a special project.”

Products Used in This Project



CS-620

Color: 154 Dark Bronze
Coating: Duragard Plus
Finish: Smooth



FWDS

Color: Custom
Coating: Duragard Plus
Finish: Smooth



FWDS

Color: 154 Dark Bronze
Coating: Duragard Plus
Finish: Smooth



FWDS

Color: 9946 Silversmith
Coating: Duragard Plus
Finish: Smooth



IW-10A

Color: 9923 Granite
Coating: Duragard Plus
Finish: Smooth



IW-13A

Color: 9923 Granite
Coating: Duragard Plus
Finish: Smooth

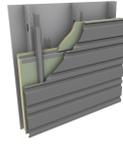


MicroSeam Corners

Color: 154 Dark Bronze

Coating: Duragard

Finish: Smooth



MetalWrap MR-100

Color: No Paint

Coating: N.A.

Finish: N.A.