

StoneLite® Panels Provide Seismic Zone Cladding Solution

Standing as a beacon in Anchorage, Alaska is JL Tower, a marvel of design that literally elevates architecture and lights the way for Class A real estate in the northern-most U.S. state.

The 14-story building, with 280,000 square feet of office space, rises high in the Anchorage skyline, and features a natural stone façade topped by a nearly four-story LED lighting feature that brightens the city's midtown nights.



Completed in 2008, the building's occupants include the Alaska Native regional corporation, Chugach Alaska. The organization, using roughly one-third of the office space, is also an owner of the facility, along with JL Properties and Reef Alaska Tower, an affiliate of Washington Capital Management.

As the first privately held LEED-certified building in Alaska, JL Tower is leading the way in environmental standards through the use of recycled materials, an energy-efficient heating and cooling system, and the use of natural light.

The aesthetics of the structure were also an important element of the design and construction. With an exterior curtain wall consisting of aluminum and natural stone panels, JL Tower creates a unique impression among the structures in Anchorage.

“We wanted the cachet of the stone finish,” said Rolland Reid, a principal of RIM Architects, which has collaborated with developers JL Properties, Inc. and Davis Constructors and Engineers, Inc. on the design/build project.

“But solid dimensional stone weighs too much. Also, we’re in a seismic Zone 4, and when it comes to material selection, that is always a fact which has to be considered.”

“StoneLite® provides us authentic natural stone, without the limitations and consequences of solid stone.”

Approximately 56,000 sq. ft. of StoneLite® Mocha Crème limestone, imported from Lisbon, Portugal, was installed on the exterior of the building over steel stud framing and 2-inch thick rigid insulation board. An additional 15,000 sq. ft. of StoneLite® limestone adorns the interior lobbies in the building as well.

“The high quality appearance and technical performance of the product is an excellent solution for this application in Alaska,” Reid said. “Our experience with the product has been excellent.”



“The high quality appearance and technical performance of the product is an excellent solution for this application in Alaska,” Reid said. “Our experience with the product has been excellent.”

In 2001, RIM Architects specified 34,000 sq. ft. of StoneLite® Giallo Santa Cecilia Granite for the construction of the 10-story ASRC Midtown Office Building in Anchorage, also owned by JL Properties, Inc.

The lighter weight StoneLite® panels require far less structural support than dimensional stone, due to a



unique manufacturing process that bonds and reinforces a natural stone veneer with an aluminum honeycomb substrate. The result is a superior natural stone cladding – available in granite, limestone, marble and sandstone – that weighs substantially less and is much stronger than traditional stone material.

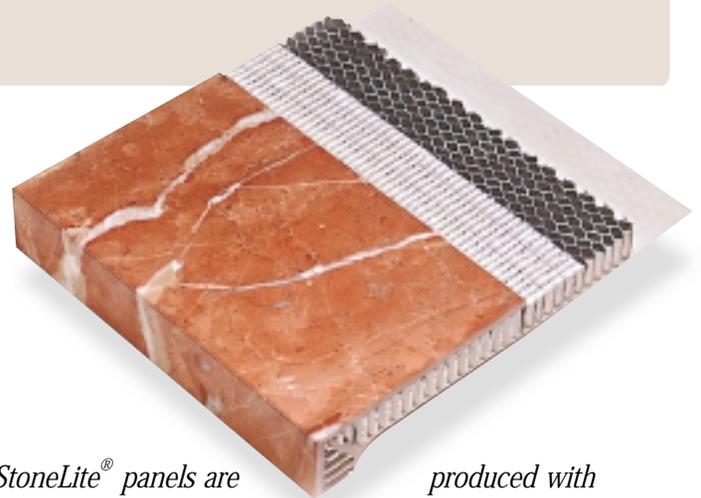
Unlike solid stone, the panels

***RIM Architects
specified 34,000 sq.
ft. of StoneLite®
Giallo Santa Cecilia
Granite for the
construction of the
10-story ASRC
Midtown Office
Building***

can be flexed, making them ideal for seismic locations. StoneLite® panels provide the beauty of natural stone and yet eliminate its fragile, brittle properties.

“StoneLite® absorbs stresses without cracking,” Reid said. “Plus, this product deals well with the wide temperature swings we have in this sub-arctic climate in Alaska.”

***The lighter weight
StoneLite® panels require
far less structural support
than dimensional stone,
due to a unique
manufacturing process
that bonds and reinforces
a natural stone veneer
with an aluminum
honeycomb substrate.***



StoneLite® panels are produced with natural stone affixed to a 3/4 inch-thick aircraft quality aluminum honeycomb using a proprietary high-strength, fiber-reinforced epoxy.

“We are extremely pleased to have produced our unique system for another multi-story office building in Alaska,” said Lance Utterback, president & CEO of Stone Panels, Inc., the manufacturer of StoneLite®. “It is always gratifying when we are awarded a project through an architectural firm that has previously specified our product.”

The speed with which StoneLite® panels can be installed was also a consideration, according to Reid. “This pre-assembled modular system is designed to install quicker than traditional dimensional stone panels, which is desirable in this environment, where we can have weather events that make construction more difficult.”

“Our firm also has offices in San Francisco, Honolulu and Guam,” said Reid. “Because of the properties of this product, we will look for ways where we may apply it in tropical settings.” StoneLite® natural stone wall panels have been successfully installed in thousands of applications

around the globe. Manufactured by Stone Panels, Inc. in Coppell, TX, StoneLite® is available utilizing

virtually any natural stone material, providing a superior cladding product that weighs up to 80 percent less than dimensional stone.

StoneLite® has also been tested to resist up to 60 times more impact than solid 3 cm thick granite, according to Utterback.

“Our testing to meet Florida large missile impact requirements, related to resistance to damage from hurricanes, showed StoneLite® to have superior properties of strength when compared to dimensional stone,” Utterback said.

“Throughout the U.S., and internationally, more and more designers and facility owners are finding that StoneLite® provides the architectural qualities, the structural integrity and the overall cost savings through lower installation expenses that support the choice of our natural stone cladding solution.”



StoneLite®

100 S. ROYAL LANE, COPPELL, TX 75019
PHONE: 469.635.5000 • FAX: 469.635.5555
TOLL FREE: 800.328.6275 • www.stonepanels.com