University of Windsor Parking Structure

Windsor, Ontario

The University of Windsor, located across the river from Detroit in Ontario, needed additional parking for students at the new science building. Instead of going with a traditional concrete structure, the University chose hot-dip galvanizing for the Newton Parking Structure.

Working with the Newton Group of Guelph, Ontario, a seven-story structure was designed to accommodate 1,000 vehicles. Hot-dip galvanized steel was used for the entire structure except for the clear and colored glass elements that give a rare aesthetic quality to the structure. The interior lights illuminate the structure, especially at night, when it becomes an attractive, well lit structure and a non-threatening place for students and visitors to park their vehicles.

The structure utilized more than 1,400 tons of galvanized steel, and many of the large sections were progressively dipped, which means to galvanize one half of the material and then rehang the piece to galvanize the other side. The university also required a short time frame which made use of paint or any other corrosion protection system almost prohibitive. In addition to being able to meet the turnaround time, hot-dip galvanizing was also the best choice to combat the harsh Canadian winters and the different de-icing materials used.

"No Future Maintenance," which hot-dip galvanizing can provide due to its durability, is what sold the college. When a parking garage is built in a high-traffic area such as a college campus, it is nearly impossible to find a time to shut it down for repairs, especially when it can be avoided. The maintenance cost of past campus garages made galvanizing the most attractive choice for this visually pleasing parking necessity. ■

Galvanizer
V&S Detroit Galvanizing LLC

Design, Build, Fabricator
Newton Group

Owner
University of Windsor

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