

Subject: Building Enclosure News #11

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Hi all, Richard here ...

As I know you're interested in Building Envelope issues, I'm sending you my "monthly" newsletter. I also value your privacy and if you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, please hit reply and change the subject line to "Delete from newsletter list" As always, I'd be glad to discuss your concerns and comments on these issues.

Tip #1 of the Month:

I am attaching curtain wall details that have been developed first with Wagdy Anis and then over the years by yours truly. The details have now been further improved by review of the Building Enclosure Council chairs. Under contract with the National Institute of Building Sciences, I have taken their comments and incorporated them so that the details are ready to be posted on the Building Envelope Design Guide (www.wbdg.org/design/envelope.php) which are part of the Whole Building Design Guide (www.wbdg.org).

The WBDG website is the federal government's repository for their construction standards, by agreement with most federal agencies. Development of the WBDG is a collaborative effort among federal agencies, private sector companies, non-profit organizations and educational institutions. The web site is managed by the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) through the funding of the NAVFAC Engineering Innovation and Criteria Office, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), the Department of Energy (through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)), and the assistance of the Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC).

There will be text that will accompany the details, which was also reviewed and developed by the Building Enclosure Council chairs and is being edited by yours truly.

The details are for stick-built exterior-glazed (avoid interior glazed systems if possible) pressure-equalized curtain walls. They contain information that needs to be shown on contract documents. Therefore, the details are focussed on showing the interface between the curtain wall and adjacent construction (air barrier, etc.).

You saw these details here first! Please let me know what you think, suggestions are welcome!

Tip #2 of the Month:

Use curtain wall, windows, and storefront, in that order, in terms of weather-tightness. They are generally most expensive to least expensive in that order, although windows and storefront are closer in price. Windows are limited by their size. It is preferable to avoid ganging and stacking windows to fill a large opening. The ganged or stacked joints are where they fail, especially at the latter. Using storefront or windows to simulate curtain wall is never a good idea.

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Richard



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