

THE PROFILE

NEWSLETTER

Spring
2007

L.A. Apartments Use EXTREN® for Aesthetics!

Several apartment buildings in downtown Los Angeles chose a unique architectural application for Strongwell products.

To achieve a more "modern" look, the Savoy Apartment buildings were in need of steel trim for balconies and walkways. Gary Williams, Project Manager from Trammell Crow Residential said, "The project specified steel, but we wanted something that would be maintenance-free."



Savoy Apartments researched options and chose gray EXTREN® FRP shapes instead of steel to trim the edges of the street-front apartments. "EXTREN® was the most similar to the specified steel in properties and aesthetics," said Williams. Eight-inch EXTREN® C-Channels matched the steel properties and even offered more benefits! The channels could simulate the metal beam supports under balconies and as aesthetic trim at exterior walkways.

The channels were mounted approximately 1" away from the

face of the building as specified to allow rain water to run behind it. Since the trim would constantly be exposed to weather's elements, maintenance was crucial. A deciding factor in choosing EXTREN® was that it will not rust and no annual repainting will be needed – saving on maintenance time and money.



Williams said that installing the FRP structural shapes also saved time because the material was so much lighter than steel. "Two men could even install it, without the use of cranes or heavy duty lifts." ●

Newsmaker

The Strongwell Design Manual is Now ONLINE!

Strongwell's Design Manual is now online for easy 24-hour access to the most up-to-date design information. Receive emails when updates have been made to the Design Manual and access from practically any computer with internet service! Visit www.strongwell.com to see the new tool!

Strongwell's Design Manual contains more than 400 pages of engineering data for the design engineer. The manual is based on years of manufacturing experience, extensive product testing and structural design and fabrication experience from Strongwell and numerous academic institutions.

How to Register: When online, visit www.strongwell.com/designmanual and click on the "New Users!" link in yellow. Register your email address and information and you'll receive a password immediately. Use your email and password to log on to the Design Manual online. It is recommended that you change your password the first time you sign into the Design Manual site. Just click on "Settings", enter your new password in the "Set New Password" box and press "Save." You'll then receive a new email with your latest password change. Happy Designing! ●



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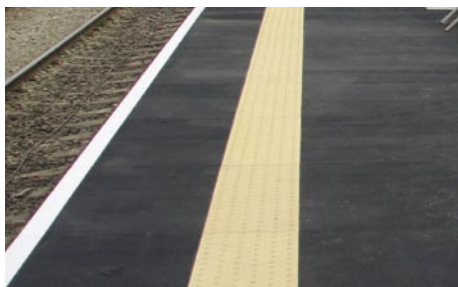
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Case History: **SAFPLATE®**, **DURAGRID®** and **EXTREN®**

“State-of-the-Art” Train Station Platforms Use Strongwell Decking

A busy East Didsbury Train Station in Manchester, England has received a new look with Strongwell products. PIPEX Structural Composites Ltd., an international distributor of Strongwell products, helped the owner and operator of the United Kingdom's rail infrastructure, Network Rail, revamp two existing concrete station platforms by supplying and fabricating a structural FRP deck over a new steel support frame.

Strongwell's SAFPLATE® bonded to DURAGRID® pultruded grating, along with EXTREN® angle, were chosen last year to replace the surface of approximately 367 feet of concrete platforms at the station. The SAFPLATE® provided a non-slip, gritted walkway while maintaining the aesthetic properties of the station.



The “state-of-the-art” installation also provided a gritted “bright white” edge and a tactile strip to aid visually impaired commuters.

Supply, fabrication and installation of the platforms were all cost-effective and time-saving. The destruction of the old concrete platform and the installation of the new steel deck with FRP surface went much easier and quicker than expected. Work was completed and the station reopened in seven weeks — right on schedule! The successful and speedy installation reduced disruption for travelers.

The platforms have a life expectancy of 60 years and were designed as a modular system that can be added to in the future. PIPEX, Managing Director, Simon Eves said, “The use of structural composites for this application marked a major



milestone for Network Rail and PIPEX was proud to be chosen for the design, fabrication and installation of the new station deck.”

Network Rail's regional General Manager Jo Kay said, “It is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of all parties involved that the first phase of work was completed on time and on budget with the station completely transformed by November.” With such success, plans for similar renovations within the Manchester line are currently underway. ●

Case History: **EXTREN®**, **SAFRAIL™** and **DURAGRID®**

Corrosion is No Threat to New FRP Platforms

The Franklin County, Ohio Road Department recently upgraded a very corrosive storage area using Strongwell products.

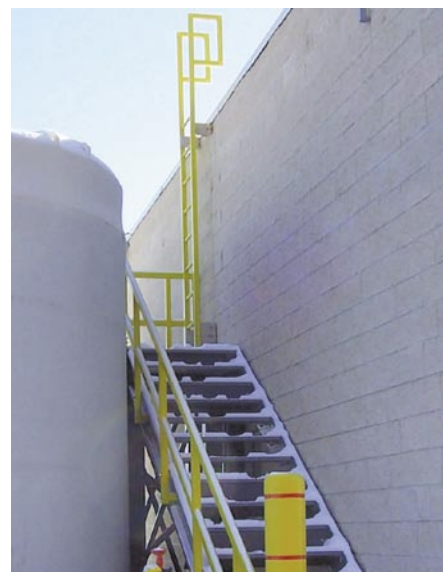
The Road Department stores the bulk road de-icing chemicals in outdoor storage tanks. Safe access was needed to and from the tanks for filling and inspection.



Therefore, it was necessary to build platforms using materials that were non-corrosive and safe.

Strongwell products were chosen for the job because they are light weight, corrosion resistant and most importantly, the builders wanted to assemble the components together themselves without the need for heavy lifting equipment.

The platforms were built using EXTREN® 525 Series 6” beams and I-6000 DURAGRID® 1” grating for walkways and stair treads. Square SAFRAIL™ handrail with a toe plate was added to surround the edge. To reach the platform, a stairway was built using EXTREN® 525 Series 10” channels for stairs and 2” equal leg angles for lateral bracing. In addition, roof access was required, so a



SAFRAIL™ walkthrough ladder was also installed.

The assembly and erection using FRP shapes saved time while assuring that the materials will last much longer in the corrosive environment than traditional building materials. ●

Case History: DURAGRID®

FRP Helps Revitalize Historic Mill Ruins Park

Mill Ruins Park in downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota utilized Strongwell's fiberglass grating on new walkways. The park is the centerpiece of the revitalization of Minneapolis' historic West Side Milling District and is still being further developed with theatre, culture, history and entertainment venues.

L. S. Black Construction, the contractor for this project, used T-1800 DURAGRID® 1" grating and T-3300 2" for stair treads. As you can imagine, aesthetics are important to the beautiful area, so FRP grating was the best choice. The grating installation was completed June 2006.

The park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of the deep history surrounding the mills that once inhabited the area. The park is also prepared for ongoing development of residential and other private and public uses in area, including the Minnesota Historical Society's Mill City Museum. ●



Case History: Bridge Decking

An FRP Bridge Deck Shipped to Island Bridge



An FRP bridge deck by Strongwell solved logistics and maintenance problems by replacing a conventional wooden bridge deck on Tangier Island.

Deterioration forced the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to replace the rotting wooden bridge and deck on Tangier Island in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay. When considering the best materials to replace the deck, VDOT required that the materials be non-corrosive for the salt-water environment, lightweight because of the limited access to the bridge site, and extremely durable because of the difficulty in maintaining or replacing the deck in the future.

All materials had to be shipped to the island on a barge since there is no truck access from the mainland. The deck was off loaded and hauled to the bridge site on



a special access dolly, and erected with a light-weight all-terrain crane.

The FRP bridge deck was chosen for this unique bridge restoration not only because the lightweight characteristics of the EXTREN® system, but also because of its extreme durability. The 56-foot long deck was shipped in five separate sections that were shop-fabricated and assembled at Strongwell's manufacturing plant in Bristol, VA. Each section consisted of 4" EXTREN® tubes and 3/8" plate. North Star Construction Corporation was the contractor for the bridge and deck and Strongwell's Corporate Chief Structural Engineer served as the Engineer-of-Record for VDOT on the EXTREN® deck. ●

Case History: COMPOSOLITE®

Containment Success at Bergen Park in Denver



Chalk another one up for the time-saving COMPOSOLITE® Secondary Containment System! This type of containment is essential for substations. It is even mandated by the EPA because of the potential for oil leakage from transformers that may flow into adjacent bodies of water.

Recent installations of these kits have proven extremely successful, including an installation at Xcel Energy's Bergen Park substation in Evergreen, Colorado. The installation took place in August of 2006 and impressed the crew because of its easy and quick installation.

Vic Garcia of Pipe Valve and Fitting Company, a Strongwell distributor, visited the site and talked with the construction crew. They said the installation was "very slick." The crews were delighted to use the FRP Secondary Containment System kit because it took them one day and only a few hours of the second day to install it. According to the crew, the same type of job in concrete would have taken them over a week to do!

It is proven that the COMPOSOLITE® Secondary Containment System exceeds the traditional concrete system benefits by being less costly – especially in remote areas – in addition to being easy to install! ●



Strongwell People

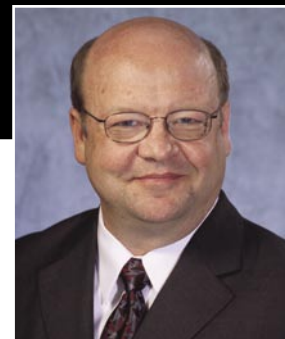
Channing Durrenberger *Oil & Gas Market Specialist*

Channing Durrenberger has accepted Strongwell's new position of Oil & Gas Market Specialist for the Gulf of Mexico territory. Channing comes to Strongwell with extensive experience in the Oil and Gas industry having worked with AIMS in Houston for 4½ years and more recently with Fibergrate for over five years.



Terry Bruckbauer *Regional Sales Manager*

Strongwell's welcomes Terry Bruckbauer as the new Regional Sales Manager for the territory covering Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, British Columbia and Alberta, Canada. He has a B.S. in Business Management from the University of Montana. Terry comes to Strongwell from Ingersoll Rand and brings extensive sales experience.



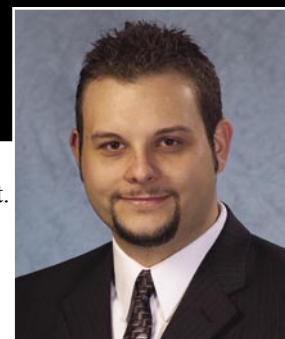
Terri Nemetz *Customer Service Representative*

Strongwell's International Business Group welcomes Terri Nemetz to the newly created position of Customer Service Representative. Terri holds a B.S. in Management from Tusculum College. Terri has several years experience as an Account Representative and Restaurant Manager.



Jeremy Chambers *Marketing Specialist*

Jeremy Chambers has joined Strongwell as Marketing Specialist. Jeremy will assist with promotion and advertising support to all divisions of Strongwell. He holds a B.S. degree in Design Graphics from East Tennessee State University. Jeremy has experience in 3-D, digital video, print and online design.



Craig Seymour *Manager, Strategic Business Development*

Craig Seymour has been appointed to the new position of Manager, Strategic Business Development. His responsibilities will include project management and contract administration of large projects and working with manufacturing regarding equipment needs, resource leveraging and work on other strategic initiatives.



Randy Montgomery *Manager, Project Management & Detailing*

Randy Montgomery has been promoted to Manager, Project Management and Detailing - Bristol Division. Randy is responsible for all structural fabrication project management. He also oversees detailing and shop drawings production concerning structural fabrication applications.



Angie Barr *Controller, Bristol & Highlands Division*

Angie Barr has been promoted to Controller for Strongwell's Bristol & Highlands Divisions. Angie came to Strongwell in 1998 as Accounts Payable Administrator and has advanced through staff accountant & corporate cash management positions. She has a B.B.A. degree with an Accounting concentration from Lincoln Memorial University.



Amber Clark *Promotions Director*

Amber Clark has been promoted to Promotions Director for Strongwell. Amber is responsible for all advertising, technical and promotional literature, mass media productions, press releases and maintenance of the Strongwell website. She holds a B.A. degree in Communication Arts from Lincoln Memorial University.



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