2019 BX CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Craftsmen: Dante Aguilera and Kevin Smuck of Hilliard Glass & Service
Winning Work: Custom interior and exterior glass installation at The Ohio State University Pomerene Hall

The skill and artistry of craftsmen Dante Aguilera and Kevin Smuck is on display throughout the recently renovated OSU Pomerene Hall.

Attention to detail and precise field measurements were necessary to fabricate and install the nearly 500 custom windows seen in the 73,000-square-foot building. The crew measured all existing windows, and found a total of nine different radiuses and 49 different window types to be replaced. Smuck traveled to the window manufacturer in Wisconsin, where he played an integral role in creating a new fabrication process, allowing for a consistent 1/4-inch caulk joint on all four sides. An anchoring system for the glass stops was also developed and implemented in the field. Daily coordination among the trades and architect was vital for the installation, stone remedial work and sealing of all components.

Craftsman: Don McNeal of Bruner Corporation
Winning Work: Mechanical and piping modification at LBrands

A high level of planning and communication led by craftsman Don McNeal were key components of the work performed at the operational data center.

The project consisted of piping seven outdoor dry coolers to an indoor CRAC unit, as well as adding duplex glycol pumps to each system. This allowed each unit its own dedicated dry cooler. Piping had to be coordinated beneath raised floors and operating servers in the data center, and through roof equipment and occupied executive offices. To maintain the tight schedule, installation occurred over a four-week period, with a three day per unit maximum to ensure data center redundancy. McNeal implemented quality checks and standards to guarantee all system change overs exceeded expectations.
Craftsman: Andy Huff of M-M Masonry, LLC
Winning Work: Exterior and interior masonry at the Canopy by Hilton

The masonry expertise of Andy Huff is featured both in and outside the new Canopy by Hilton. The exterior of the 12-story hotel consists of a combination of utility and modular brick, while the interior features 5,000 square feet of pre-fabricated panelized thin brick. Access to the rooftops of surrounding buildings was prohibited, requiring a tremendous amount of pre-planning and coordination before work could begin. Due to the critical nature of the installation, a combination of beam and hydraulic scaffold and swing stage system were used for the building’s exterior. To support the crew, scaffolding and materials, beams were bolted into the interior’s concrete columns. Construction of an art wall was also included in the design.

Craftsman: Willie Raptis of M-M Masonry, LLC
Winning Work: Exterior masonry at 711 N. High St.

Craftsman Willie Raptis used his extensive knowledge and meticulous planning to execute the spectacular masonry work seen at the 711 N. High project. Nestled between two existing structures, the new nine story mixed-use development features retail, office and residential space. Due to tight conditions, work was carefully scheduled to accommodate deliveries, pedestrian safety and nearby construction. Brick veneer totaling more than 24,000 square feet was installed and cleaned using swing stages, with all material delivered through window openings. The exterior stone panels were set into place using a hoist and rigging system. A keen ability to troubleshoot in the field allowed Raptis to keep the crew and project on schedule.
Craftsmen: Frank Lunsford, Myron Manack, Luis Rosas and John Stamper of Martin Painting & Coating Co.

Winning Work: Decorative painting at Saint Mary Catholic Church

The crew from Martin Painting & Coating Co. is responsible for the stunning, restorative painting seen throughout the 153-year old Saint Mary Church in German Village.

With input from church leaders, the team was able to recreate much of the original decorating schemes and historic elements. The complex and tedious work included touch up and repair of the high altar, pews, pulpit and baptismal areas. The Stations of the Cross and Gerhard Lamers originals were updated as well. Both paint and stain colors were blended to perfectly match existing finishes. Intricate and detailed stenciling and hand painting was applied around the Giclee canvas panels on the ceiling. Window frames, the bell tower, exterior trim and louvers were also included in the scope of work.

Craftsmen: Steven Driver, Riley Fetherolf, Jack Hickman, Paul Poklinkowski and Thomas Rathbun of Mid-City Electric / Technologies.

Winning Work: Electrical installation and upgrades at Nationwide Children’s Hospital

The combined experience of the crew from Mid-City Electric / Technologies is evident in the electrical work at the Nationwide Children’s Hospital West Energy Plant.

Completed in just 22 months, the massive and complex installation provides heating, cooling and power generation to all campus buildings west of Parsons Avenue. Structures include a new data center, Research Buildings III and IV, the Behavioral Health Center and parking garage, and the Livingston Ambulatory Center and parking garage. Two new AEP services, a 10.5-megawatt generator plant with an extensive electrical distribution system and two five-meg systems were part of the upgrades. Due to limited laydown area and lack of material storage, coordination between various trades was vital to completing the work. The Mid-City crew members were integral in making design recommendations throughout the process.
Craftsmen: Nick Bowman, Scott Cameron, Mike Clark, Craig Holsky and Duane Murray of Mock Woodworking Co

Winning Work: Architectural Woodwork at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville-Polaris Hotel

The detailed carpentry work of the crew from Mock Woodworking is on display at the new Renaissance Hotel in Westerville.

Several public spaces, including a back bar, club lounge and expo kitchen, feature a lake house theme, with jute rope, real wood bark, wood logs and faux I-beams incorporated into the design. The crew worked with 15 wood species, 10 stone types and four varieties of metal along with glass and resin. The wood trim showcases 20 different profiles with 35,000 linear feet of material. Installation of casework, paneling, doors, louvers, restroom partitions, bar area walls and platforms were also part of the work. All pieces were prefabricated in the shop and expertly engineered and assembled on site.

Craftsmen: Chris Block, Donald Detlor, Cameron Gessner, Jeremy Rickard and Mike White of Settle-Muter Electric, Ltd.

Winning Work: Electrical and A/V system installation at the OSU Covelli Center

The project included a fire alarm system and all pathways in the facility’s bowl area. Over 25,000 feet of conduit and more than 300,000 feet of wire were installed. The tubes were closely coordinated with the structure to conceal as much as possible in the buildings open area. Layout of the sound system required rough-ins in exact locations. The sports lighting was specifically placed to obtain proper levels for televised sporting events with a majority of the work completed from 80-foot boom lifts. The working space and location of the install was 45 feet from the floor, creating a challenge for layout. Materials were laid out on the ground, and precise measurements were made before transferring to the deck and bar joists.
Craftsmen: Jim Allen, Mike Dotson, Bruce Frebault, Jacob Fromerth and Jesse Webb of Mill Tech, LLC

Winning Work: Architectural woodwork at the OSU Student Athletic Development Center

The customized millwork on display at the new OSU Student Athletic Development Center is the work of the crew from Mill Tech, LLC.

The 110,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility is home to several OSU student athletic teams. Multiple construction methods were used and a variety of materials and design aspects can be seen throughout the space. A total of 266 locker units were designed with specific options unique to each room and sport. The reception desks on the main floor and second story, wood wrapped stairs, cabinets, countertops and taping seating units were custom made to meet the University’s expectations. Consistent communication with the owners was key to producing high quality products that could be used for many years to come.


Winning Work: Exterior wall system at 800 N. High St.

The impressive wall system seen from the south side of 800 N. High St. is the work of the crew from Valley Interior Systems, Inc.

With coordination from the design team, the metal stud walls were prefabbed offsite at the company’s Cincinnati office, where they were framed, sheeted, air barriered, thin bricked and mortared. All mortar joints had to match the real brick that tied into the thin brick design. The 8 by 30-foot panels were craned in from a sixth-floor roof and installed in less than two days. An existing building was located just six inches from the new construction, requiring extreme detail and coordination from the crew. Precise field dimensions ensured the match of brick elevations, wall heights, soldier courses and angles.
Craftsman:  James Fleshman of Kirk Williams Co., Inc.
Winning Work:  Cooling tower installation at the Greater Columbus Convention Center

Craftsman James Fleshman was instrumental in the scheduling, fabrication design, and installation of the new cooling towers servicing the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

With a tight timeline and site constraints, careful planning was made to ensure every aspect of the work would meet project requirements. Working in 12-hour shifts, the installation was done in a two-month time frame, with tie-in to the existing system completed within a two-day shut down. Piping supports were welded into the structural steel of the loading docks concrete deck to help carry the weight of the new towers. Large 30- and 36-inch condenser water pipes in 40-foot lengths, weighing 8,000 pounds, were set directly in the supports and the cooling towers were lifted from the truck and bolted in place.