

CASE STUDY

GERMAN SCHOOL WASHINGTON D.C.

Science Building



WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARCHITECT	GEIER BROWN RENFROW ARCHITECTS
FABRICATOR	UNIVERSE CORPORATION
INSTALLER	GLASS & ALUMINUM CONCEPTS
FIXING SYSTEM	TS210 INVISIBLE (CONCEALED) BRACKET-RAILFIX ON AN ALUMINUM SUBFRAME
MARKET SEGMENT	EDUCATION
BUILD TYPE	NEW CONSTRUCTION
USE	FAÇADES
YEAR	2013

TRESPA PRODUCT	TRESPA® METEON® UNI COLORS
 A21.5.1	 A03.4.0
 A04.0.0	
FINISH	SATIN



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GERMAN SCHOOL WASHINGTON D.C.

A SMARTER DESIGN FOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

THE WASHINGTON D.C. CAMPUS OF THE GERMAN SCHOOL, IN POTOMAC, MARYLAND, PROVIDES QUALITY EDUCATION FOR GERMAN-SPEAKING STUDENTS FROM PRE-K TO 12TH GRADE. IN 2013 THE SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENED ITS NEW SCIENCE BUILDING AND BECAME THE FIRST GERMAN SCHOOL IN THE U.S. TO BE LEED GOLD CERTIFIED.

The German School of Washington D.C. required an expansion due to rising enrollment rates and the school's desire to give graduates the competitive edge with experience with state-of-the-art science equipment and technology.

THE SOLUTION TO A "GROWING" PROBLEM

A German architect designed the school's main classroom building during the '70s. The school administration wanted the new science building's exterior to match the clean, modern look of the

main building, while allowing future expansions to adopt a more contemporary look. The school also wanted to incorporate the latest eco-friendly technology, while keeping utility and maintenance costs at a minimum.

Lead architect, Philip W. Renfrow of Geier Brown Renfrow Architects, conducted a great deal of research when selecting an exterior façade and cladding for the new building. Keeping in mind that the school planned further expansions in the



future, Renfrow needed to find a durable material that could withstand time and weather, while fulfilling LEED Gold sustainability requirements, as well as aesthetic and budget requirements. Renfrow's research pointed to ventilated façades, commonly used in Europe, and as a result high quality Trespa® Meteon® panels were selected.

THE COLORFUL SIDE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Trespa® Meteon® panels were chosen for the first phase of the project. Trespa offered a variety of colors, allowing the new construction to connect visually with the existing structure's

design and color palette. The established building featured a solid upper level and an articulated ground level with brilliant yellow-gold window frames. In a similar fashion, the new science building showcased a solid top with an open and transparent lower level. The panels also blended well with the variety of other materials used on the science building's exterior, including natural wood and glass. For the initial phase of renovation, two tones of grey and Cream White panels were chosen, but plans for the next phase will include more playful colors.

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“Our research for the right material lead us to Trespa® Meteon®.”

– Phillip W. Renfrow, partner and principal architect, Geier Brown Renfrow Architects

Trespa® Meteon® panels are designed to be installed using a back-ventilation system. This installation option was the single most important deciding factor in the final product selection. A ventilated façade system can contribute to the building’s capability to be energy efficient. Additionally, the panels require low maintenance but offer high durability and impact resistance.

The German School serves over 500 students in the Washington D.C. area. While devoted to offering children from all backgrounds the opportunity to learn using the latest technology,

the school also aims to instill tolerance, respect and cooperation into their students. The new science building’s eco-friendly design is an extension of this philosophy with features such as the rain-collecting rooftop garden and the ventilated façade system featuring Trespa® Meteon® façade panels.

The Trespa® Meteon® panels add a modern look and functionality to the new building, reflecting the innovative educational experience the German School offers its students. ■



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CONTACT US

TRESPA INTERNATIONAL B.V.

P.O. Box 110, 6000 AC Weert
Wetering 20, 6002 SM Weert
The Netherlands
www.trespa.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK

EMEA EXPORT

Tel: +31 (0) 495 458 839
Info.Export@Trespa.com

TRESPA UK LTD.

35 Calthorpe Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham, B15 1TS
United Kingdom
Tel: 0808-2340268
Info.UK@Trespa.com

TRESPA NORTH AMERICA LTD.

350 Fifth Avenue, Ste 4610
New York, NY 10118
United States of America
Tel: +1 800 487 3772
Info.NorthAmerica@Trespa.com

TRESPA CHINA CO. LTD.

Room 2604-05, HuaiHai Plaza
No. 1045 HuaiHai Road (central)
ShangHai 200031
P.R. China
Tel: +86 (0) 21 6288 1299
Info.China@Trespa.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK ASIA/PACIFIC

Tel: +86 (0) 21 5465 8388
Info.APAC@Trespa.com

VISIT US

TRESPA DESIGN CENTRE WEERT

Wetering 20
6002 SM Weert
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 (0) 495 458 845
TDC.Weert@Trespa.com
www.trespa.com/tdc

TRESPA DESIGN CENTRE BARCELONA

Calle Ribera 5,
08003 Barcelona
Spain
Tel: +34 (0) 93 295 4193
TDC.Barcelona@Trespa.com
www.trespa.com/tdc

TRESPA DESIGN CENTRE SANTIAGO

Eliodoro Yáñez 2831
Torre A - Local 1
Providencia, Santiago
Chile
Tel: +56 2 4069990
TDC.Santiago@Trespa.com
www.trespa.com/tdc

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