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Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block Helps Chicago Architect Explore Symbolic Possibilities

Essex® pattern Glass Block Provides Practicality and Symbolism in Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

Chicago, Ill.,— Pittsburgh Corning announced today that the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie, Ill. has selected Pittsburgh Corning to supply Essex® pattern Glass Block as part of the interior design of the recently developed project. Under the terms of the agreement, Pittsburgh Corning provided more than 4,200 blocks of Essex® pattern block, which were loose-laid on-site to create one of the interior walls of a large, cylindrical reflection room illuminated by mostly natural lighting.

Lead architect Stanley Tigerman, of Chicago-based Tigerman McCurry Architects saw more than just glass when he selected Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block as one of the building materials for the Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, Ill. “In a building loaded with symbolism, Pittsburgh Corning’s glass block was the right material,” he said. “Built in large part of glass block, this reflection area allows light to flood in and reflect off of the block to illuminate the area outside the room.”

The museum itself is comprised of two separate buildings, a light and a dark; hinged at the center to offer contrasting views of the Holocaust. The first, designed in somber, dark tones, represents the descent into darkness; the second, finished in white and facing East towards Jerusalem, represents the ascent into the light and hope for a new beginning.

“The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is a testament to Holocaust survivors and their understanding that we must teach the lessons of the Holocaust and empower future generations to become activists in the fight against unchallenged hate and bigotry,” said Project and Executive Director Richard S. Hirschhaut. “Our permanent exhibition ends with a Hall of Reflection surrounded by Pittsburgh Corning’s glass block. The natural light the block allows to flow throughout the room truly provides a tranquil space for thought and reflection.”

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Coincidentally, each block also represents one half of a cubit, an ancient biblical measurement used to build the sacred Temple in Jerusalem. This numerological tie secured Tigerman's theory that glass block was the only material for the job, "Glass block was the only material I could imagine. It has these functions of privacy and light deflection that, coupled with its 'cubit' measurement, address both

practical and symbolic needs for me. I thought about using lexan, fiberglass, a whole list of materials," said Tigerman. "But there is no size to them. With glass block, you know it has a size. It has a certain inevitability that I wanted to convey with this building."

The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center will open on April 19, 2009. For more information about the Museum, visit www.ilholocaustmuseum.org.

Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block products are available from authorized Pittsburgh Corning distributors and retailers across the country. For more information, call Pittsburgh Corning's Glass Block Resource Center at 800-624-2120 or visit www.pittsburghcorning.com.

About Pittsburgh Corning

Since its inception in 1937, Pittsburgh Corning has manufactured products that help architects turn their visions into inspiring reality. A leading U.S. supplier of building materials, including glass block and FOAMGLAS® insulation, the company has always strived to provide innovative solutions to industry needs.

For more information, visit www.PittsburghCorning.com or www.PossibilitiesBegin.com.

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