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FRAMING THE FUTURE

BUILDING ENVELOPE CONTRACTORS CONFERENCE

MAR 1-3, 2026

THE ARCHITECT'S PERSPECTIVE

What Glazing Contractors Need to
Know about Design, Performance,
Partnership & the Future of Glass





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DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE: BALANCING PERFORMANCE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND AESTHETICS

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NATIONAL GARD ASSOCIATION OF GARDENERS



KNOWLTON HALL – OHIO STATE



YKK storefront supported by secondary internal structural system

Timeless aesthetic...constructed in 2005

Durable, designed as primary “light catcher” for interior spaces

DALEY FAMILY PAVILION

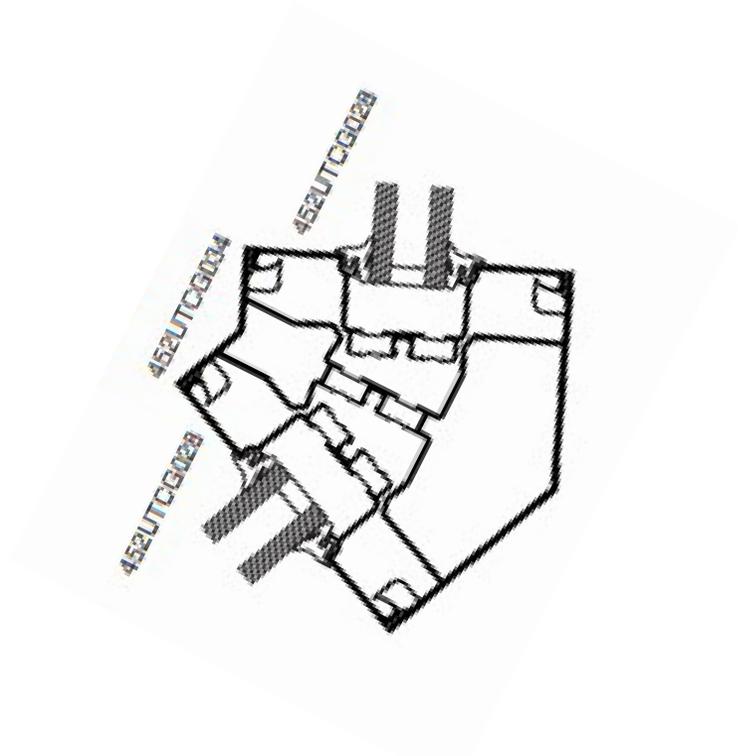
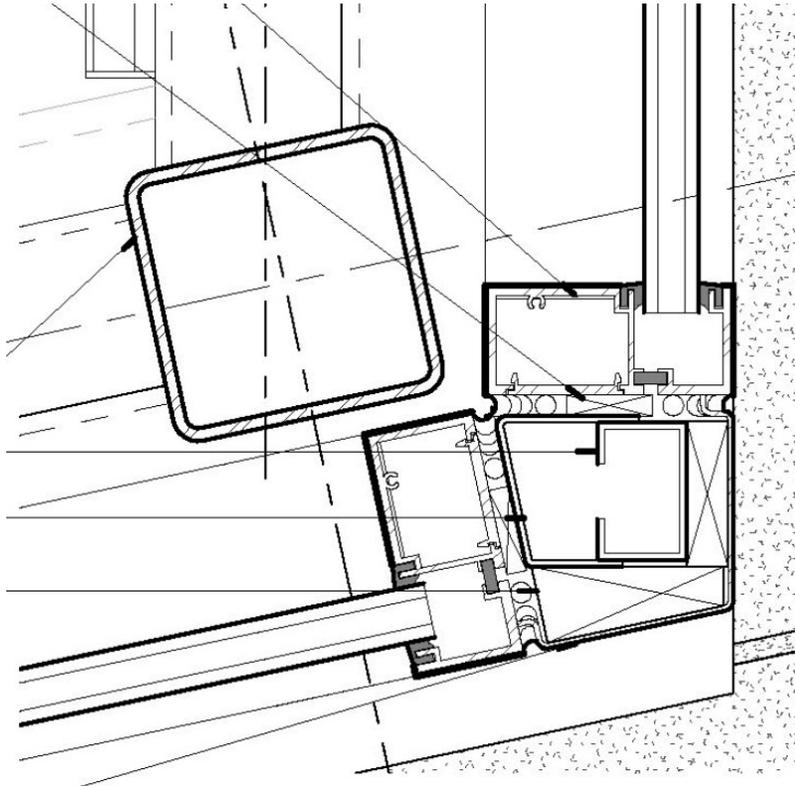


Kawneer 451T Storefront System

Complex integration of glazing and structural system

Early engagement could have improved thermal envelope performance

DALEY FAMILY PAVILION



NAVIGATING INNOVATION, ADOPTION, AND TRUST IN GLASS TECHNOLOGY

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THE JOSEPH GROUP



Financial investment advisors

Prefer to meet with clients
near front of the office

Significant privacy concerns
related to client information

DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY



Designed by David Chipperfield Architects and Substance

Much of the “wow” of the building is offered through specialized glazing

Seems like the team pushed the limits without performance assurance

REDEFINING COLLABORATION BETWEEN ARCHITECTS AND THE GLAZING TRADE

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CONSULTING EXPECTATION



Imagine a future where manufacturers and fabricators are integrated into all projects as a specialized consultant

Big BIM...all contributing to the design in real time — live

EXPAND COMPONENT LIBRARIES



OptiQ® Offset Fixed/Projected Series Window →



1600 Sloped Glazing →



InLighten® Interior Light Shelf →



Versoleil® SunShade – Outrigger System
– for Curtain Wall →

Architects are making decisions very early as they build their models and manufacturers with more robust component libraries “win”

Increase options for customization

BE THE RESOURCE



Buildings are increasingly complex and architects cannot meet the pace

Emerging talent yearns for mentorship and expertise

KEY IDEAS

- Performance and resilience are inseparable from design
- Sustainability conversations need to happen earlier
- Innovation in glass is outpacing confidence in it

- The glazing trade has an untapped seat at the design table
- Integrated project delivery should become the norm
- Prefabrication and robotics are coming regardless

THANK YOU!



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