

**Name:** Great Lakes Aquarium at the Discovery Center  
**Location:** Pier Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
**Façade Cladding:** Trespa Meteon Pure White Satin (A.05.00/ST)  
**Façade Cladding in SF:** 40,000 Square feet  
**Fastening System:** TS110  
**Design Architect:** Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc. (HGA)  
**General Contractor:** Gilbane Building Company  
**Installer:** Stuckey Construction



Photography Steven Woo / Total Spectrum Advertising

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# TRESPA SOLUTIONS

*“A major part of the Discovery Center project was a round structure. The Trespa Meteon® panels could be force bent on the job site to provide an absolutely smooth, curved surface.”*

Jim Shields, AIA, Lead Design Architect, HGA Milwaukee



**“I really like the stainless steel fasteners that provide detail to the panels. As you near the building you see all these beautiful details, a richer surface. In fact, we added half inch washers to the fasteners to make them more visible.”**

#### **Great Lakes Aquatarium at Discovery World**

With a location on Lake Michigan and an emphasis on freshwater habitats, The Aquatarium in Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin brings the Great Lakes indoors into a world-class, state-of-the-art technology and freshwater resources museum. The building is shaped in a circle that is reminiscent of the pilot house on a Great Lakes schooner. Inside there is a full-scale model of a wooden schooner common in the 1850s. In addition to an interactive 40 by 40 foot scale model of the Great Lakes, there are a series of large aquariums that trace the freshwater and saltwater habitats from Milwaukee to the Caribbean.

The award winning project grew out of an architectural competition won with a design developed by HGA architect Jim Shields. Composed of two volumes and clad in white Trespa Meteor® Panels, the 120,000 SF building is a light and luminous presence designed to be sustainable.



#### **The Design Firm**

The Aquatarium was designed by the architectural and engineering firm Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc. HGA has a rich 50 year history of both responding to emerging architectural trends, and creating trends by developing forward-thinking design solutions for clients in the corporate, healthcare, arts, religious and education sectors.

James Shields, AIA, is the lead design architect in HGA's Milwaukee office. His designs are known for elegant simplicity, the use and control of daylight as a generator of form and for his integration of engineering technology into architecture. Jim is an Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the author of two books, and the recipient of numerous awards.

#### **Rain Screen Cladding Systems**

Over 40,000 square feet of Trespa Meteor exterior panels were installed as a rain screen cladding system on the two buildings that comprise the facility. Ventilated rain screen cladding is used worldwide because the systems enable architects to meet every performance requirement in any climate. “I teach architecture at the University of Wisconsin and I'm a real believer in rain screen cladding,” says Jim Shields. “The way that Meteor is installed creates a pressure cavity that really stops suction leaks.” Meteor panels also offer a high degree of design flexibility. And by designing the external wall in two leaf cavity construction, the performance of the building is improved. The ventilated cavity helps to protect the cladding and to maintain a healthy indoor environment.

Jim was also impressed by how easy Meteor is to clean: “We built a sample panel before we began the project, and one thing we were really looking for was cleanliness. On a lake shore site with sea gulls and common industrial pollutants, the Trespa panels remain remarkably clean. Rainwater seems to clean them and the building continues to have a clean and spotless appearance.”

Durable Trespa Meteor® panels are available in a wide array of colors and textures.



*“None of the ways to join Trespa panels requires sealant. This was important because the use of sealants requires on-going maintenance.”*