“This innovative wall system created a single step, full height installation, which helped to limit the need for special equipment, reduce man hours and shorten the project schedule.”

Ray Volpatt Jr.
Owner, Volpatt Construction of Pittsburgh

**PROJECT PROFILE**
Suburban Pittsburgh’s St. Clair Hospital is an independent, acute care center that has provided high quality healthcare to the city’s residents for more than fifty years. The hospital boasts 328 beds, 550 physicians and a total of 2,200 employees at its main campus in Mt. Lebanon, a suburb south of downtown Pittsburgh.

St. Clair also offers a number of outpatient centers to provide convenient care and support to its patients in southwestern Pennsylvania. With a 34 percent increase in patients recently, St. Clair Hospital saw another need to further expand its reach – and it chose a suburb of Pittsburgh that has experienced a nearly 25 percent increase in population since 2000.

**SYNTHEON SOLUTION**
The hospital’s newest outpatient center—located at 3928 Washington Road (State Route 19) in Peters Township, PA – is a $20 million, 40,000 square foot facility that offers a comprehensive line of diagnostic services, and features physicians’ offices, an on-site café and parking for about 180 vehicles.

This advanced healthcare project was constructed with 16,000 square feet of SYNTHEON® ACCEL-E® Steel Thermal Efficient Panel wall system – technology that combines both framing and exterior insulation into a one step process. 8” thick ACCEL-E panels were used on this project.

Replacing conventional framing and insulation with pre-engineered ACCEL-E panels streamlines the construction process, and can reduce labor and onsite disposal costs. Window and door openings are pre-cut, and pre-cut channels also simplify the installation of electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems. This simplicity not only makes the construction process more efficient, but also more affordable.

“This innovative wall system created a single step, full height installation, which helped to limit the need for specialized equipment, reduce man hours and shorten the project schedule,” says Ray Volpatt Jr., Owner, Volpatt Construction of Pittsburgh, the general contractor for this project. “By using the SYNTHEON ACCEL-E wall panel system we were able to lower the overall cost of construction.”

**PROJECT FACTS**

**SIZE:** 40,000 square feet  
**PURPOSE:** Outpatient hospital facility with comprehensive line of diagnostic services  
**MAXIMUM WALL HEIGHT:** 26 Feet  
**PANEL DEPTH:** 8 inches  
**WALL TYPE:** Non-load bearing exterior bypass wall  
**OWNER:** St. Clair Hospital  
**ARCHITECT:** IKM, Inc.  
**CONTRACTOR:** Volpatt Construction
ENERGY EFFICIENCY, LABOR SAVING

“By using the SYNTHEON ACCEL-E wall panel system, we were able to lower the overall cost of construction.”

ENERGY SAVINGS

But even more enticing to building owners is the energy efficiency offered by ACCEL-E. The panels are made by fusing steel framing components and expanded polystyrene (EPS) insulating panels together into a single continuous system, greatly reducing thermal bridging, and eliminating air gaps, sagging and irregularities that can greatly diminish the performance of conventional framing and insulation.

The project broke ground in March 2012 and was completed in the spring of 2013. The ACCEL-E panel installation began in August 2012 and finished by early October.

Joel Whiteko, Vice President of Washington Builders Supply Company, a full line commercial building supplier located in Meadowlands, PA says, “For now, the structure will have two floors, but it is being constructed in such a way that a third floor is possible if the hospital decides it warrants it sometime in the future.”

PRODUCT PROFILE

The SYNTHEON ACCEL-E Steel Thermal Efficient Panel is a lightweight, easy-to-install, high-performance wall system that shortens construction time, optimizes crew use, greatly improves energy efficiency – and does it all in just one step. The secret behind the exceptional construction efficiency of ACCEL-E is an exclusive manufacturing process that combines the strength and performance of cold-formed steel framing with the superior insulation properties of expanded polystyrene (EPS).

This unique fusion process provides each panel with the highest levels of engineered performance, yet delivers thermal efficiency so exceptional it exceeds new ASHRAE 2007 90.1 and IECC 2009 requirement for the building envelope. Plus, the materials used in the panels resist mold and mildew. No other wall system combines framing, cavity insulation and continuous rigid foam insulation in such an easy, one-step installation process.

The ACCEL-E panels are produced in thicknesses of 5-1/2, 6 and 8 inches, and can be manufactured in virtually any height, limited only by the mode of transport.

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