



## Case Study | 002

# O'Dome Temporary Wall

## Gainesville, Florida

November 2015

### Challenge

The Stephen C. O'Connell Center, commonly called the O'Dome, has been a vibrant part of campus life at the University of Florida (UF) since December 1980. It has hosted championship basketball games, sell-out concerts, joyous graduation ceremonies, and more than a few thrilling swimming, gymnastics, and volleyball competitions.



After more than three decades of intensive use, the O'Dome was showing its age. The UF administration approved a \$64.5 million renovation that would add a dramatic two-story main entrance, a reconfigured arena, high-efficiency utilities, and new amenities for students, fans, alumni, and patrons.

### Alternate Solutions

UF wanted the entire project completed with minimum downtime and ahead of the upcoming basketball season. UF also wanted to have the project certified as the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED V4 Gold) arena in the country.

General contractor Brasfield & Gorrie decided a temporary wall would meet these requirements and it issued a request for proposals to install a 14,592 square-foot temporary wall using Georgia-Pacific DensGlass® Sheathing.

"It was a unique, atypical building," says Courtney Pittman, vice president and project manager for Davis Architects. "It was also an aggressive schedule with just eight months to do the majority of the construction work."

Mader Southeast, a Florida-based commercial construction company, won the contract and GP Gypsum field sales manager Alan Zeedyk contacted Mader Southeast senior project manager Jeff Henderson with a suggestion for delivering an even greater efficiency. "DensGlass Sheathing is an outstanding product," Zeedyk says. "But with this extremely tight schedule, we thought Jeff might benefit from using our new DensElement™ Barrier System."

### The DensElement™ Solutions

The DensElement Barrier System offers an all-in-one weather barrier system. Its new and technically improved fiberglass mat gypsum sheathing panel has an integrated layer of edge-to-edge material that provides water and air protection when finished with PROSOCO R-Guard® FastFlash® liquid flashing. GP developed

### System Components

14,592 sq ft of  
DensElement™ Sheathing

8,610 linear ft of R-Guard®  
FastFlash® liquid flashing

### Key Companies:

Owner:  
University of Florida

Architect:  
Davis Architects

### General Contractor:

Brasfield & Gorrie

### Sub-Contractor:

Mader Southeast

### Distributor:

Gator Gypsum, Inc.



the DensElement Barrier System to meet the demand for faster construction. It's a further evolution of DensGlass Sheathing, which has been the industry's most architecturally specified fiberglass mat gypsum sheathing panel for more than three decades.

"It is such a resilient product that GP will warrant the DensElement Barrier System against deterioration or delamination for up to 12 months of exposure to normal weather conditions," says Barry Reid, the building envelope technical manager for GP Gypsum. "The FastFlash liquid flashing can also be applied even when the material is wet from rain or other condensation. These are important benefits for project owners who want to minimize delays and downtime and improve the bottom line."

**"Florida has harsh weather and the temporary wall was going to have a lot of exposure... With the DensElement Barrier System, we were confident of keeping water out."**

**– Jeff Henderson, Mader Southeast**

In applications where the DensElement Barrier System is used as a water-resistive barrier and air barrier (WRB-AB) for exterior cladding, GP offers a five-year limited performance warranty in addition to the 12-month exposure warranty.

#### **Performance Advantages**

After further conversations with Zeedyk and studying the science behind the DensElement Barrier System, Henderson agreed it fit the O'Dome requirements and schedule.

"Brasfield & Gorrie had committed to finishing the project before basketball season," Henderson says. "With this system, you put up the DensElement Sheathing, apply the FastFlash liquid flashing, and you're done. Fewer steps make it faster."

While there was little chance the temporary wall would leak during its approximately six-month service life, the 12-month limited warranty for exposure to normal weather conditions provided the other project participants with significant peace of mind.

"Florida has harsh weather," Henderson says, "And the temporary wall was going to have a lot of exposure while the facility was still being used for activities. With the DensElement Barrier System, we were confident of keeping water out."

#### **System Savings**

The system's components eliminate the need for applying building wraps, thin or thick fluid-applied membranes, peel-and-stick membranes, or other additional WRB-AB layers.

"The DensElement Barrier System is a great system because it goes up quickly," Pittman says. "It suited our purposes perfectly, and we got great feedback from the installation contractor. I would certainly recommend it on future projects."

The O'Dome's renovation is proceeding on schedule and is scheduled to wrap up in time for UF's fall semester commencement in December 2016.



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