

DensElement[®]

Barrier System

THE CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS & THE GAYLE & TOM BENSON JESUIT CENTER

New Orleans, LA

Photo: Tim Hursley

A Vision for Loyola University

The Chapel of St. Ignatius and the Gayle and Tom Benson Jesuit Center at Loyola University in New Orleans is a striking example of architectural ingenuity.

With its unique cylindrical form, the building stands as a testament to thoughtful design and innovation. Designed to foster reflection and connection, the chapel serves as a spiritual and cultural hub for the university community.

QUICK FACTS:

- Location: New Orleans, LA
- Georgia-Pacific products used:
 - + DensElement[®] Barrier System
- Architect: Trahan Architects
- General Contractor: Mapp Built
- Sub Contractor: Pace Construction
- Building Size: 4,620 ft²



Trahan Architects, with studios in New Orleans and New York, is renowned for creating structures that bridge community and culture. Their work desires to elevate human experience by designing spaces that reflect the uniqueness of people's lives. From the Coca-Cola® Stage at the Alliance Theater in Atlanta to the Caesars Superdome Renovation in New Orleans, Trahan Architects continue to inspire through their thoughtful designs.

Pace Construction's Role in Value Engineering

During the pre-construction phase, Pace Construction played a pivotal role in optimizing the project by submitting the DensElement® Barrier System as a value-engineering (VE) option to Trahan Architects. Having worked with DensElement® Barrier System for years, Pace Construction recognized its potential to enhance the project by optimizing costs and accelerating construction timelines. They reached out to Georgia-Pacific's Field Sales Manager, Jonathan Garrie, to explore the opportunity and ensure the system was the right fit for the project.

Having previously worked with similar products like DensGlass® Sheathing, Trahan Architects was intrigued by DensElement® Barrier System ability to streamline construction while maintaining high performance.

As Brad McWhirter from Trahan Architects noted, *“It was a ‘no-brainer’. DensElement® [Barrier System] had everything that we needed and it also helped us save some money.”*

Meeting the Challenges of a Circular Design

The building’s unique circular design presented distinct challenges during construction, particularly with the installation of the DensElement® Barrier System. To address these complexities, Pace Construction collaborated closely with Georgia-Pacific’s Tech Services team. A technical services representative provided on-site assistance, ensuring the system was installed correctly and seamlessly integrated into the structure. This hands-on support was critical in overcoming the challenges posed by the curved nature of the building.



Photo: Tim Hursley

Why DensElement® Barrier System?

The DensElement® Barrier System, a fire resistant integrated weather barrier system, was chosen for its ability to optimize costs while enhancing construction speed. Its innovative design allowed for a streamlined installation process, making it an ideal solution for a project of this complexity. This marked the first time Trahan Architects used the DensElement® Barrier System, and the results exceeded expectations.



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Conclusion

The Chapel of St. Ignatius and the Gayle and Tom Benson Jesuit Center exemplifies the power of collaboration and innovation in modern architecture.

By blending innovative materials like the DensElement[®] Barrier System with thoughtful design, the project delivered a structure that not only serves its purpose but also stands as a symbol of community and culture. This project highlights the importance of teamwork and technical expertise in bringing ambitious architectural visions to life.