The thunderous roar of jet engines can be heard above the confines of the newly retrofitted Airway Motor Inn on Astoria Boulevard in Queens, New York, but this does not detract from the happiness the proprietor feels toward this newly created edifice. LaGuardia Airport is presently going through major changes in the layout of the terminal and parking areas. The Port Authority, owners of the airport, hope these changes will increase the desirability of businessmen and tourists to come to LaGuardia. In the interim, the major hotel chains in the area have enhanced the appearance of their buildings and created a very competitive atmosphere.

In response to the competition, the Airway Motor Inn, a local establishment in Queens since the early '60s, hired architect David Manima to study the Motor Inn and make recommendations to improve its veneer. The architect responded to the owners’ request and suggested an exterior wall insulation and finish system, Energex. A design was presented to the owner and approved. Working drawings were completed and the project was bid. Chet Mitrani Plastering and Stucco of Manorville, New York, was awarded the project and work began immediately.

The applicator began by first attaching insulation board to the substrate. This was achieved by mixing the adhesive, Energex matrix with portland cement type I by weight. The matrix was then applied to the back side of the insulation board utilizing the ribbon and tab method.

The custom shapes were cut on the job site utilizing a hot wire machine. Once the board was fully attached, the matrix was applied to the entire face of the board and the mesh was embedded into the wet matrix. Following the curing of the matrix, Energex finish was floated to the desired texture.

The Airway Motor Inn now stands tall among its ornate competitors in the skylines of LaGuardia International Airport.