The advantages of panelization of EIFS are numerous. Hopewell Baptist Church architect Richard Burton of Danielson, Woodall and Burton in Atlanta, GA, knew that when he specified panels of PAREX’s PB system, SYSTEM 3 to be used as decorative elements of the facade.

The main advantages of panelization in the job included the possibility to design very complicated architectural decorative shapes, the light weight of the decorative panels and the fact that job completion was not as dependent on climatic conditions as it can be on job-site applied solutions.

**Complex Decorative Shapes**
Special attention to quality and detail in a controlled environment can cut labor costs and promote quality craftsmanship. Bill Jo Donaldson of EID says that working on such a detailed project was much easier at ground level than 40 ft up in the air on scaffolding, and special attention could also be paid to the difficult task of applying the smooth sandstone texture. The panels were cut from solid blocks of EPS with hat channel running horizontally through the top, middle and bottom. They were then coated using cementitious base coat, reinforcing fabric, primer and synthetic finish.

**Lightweight Panels**
At the jobsite, the lightweight panels were easy to handle and adhere to gypsum sheathing using adhesive and then mechanically fastened through the studs into the hat channel from the inside of the building. The prefabricated columns were made of EPS with cementitious base coat and mesh. They were then affixed to the steel supports and finished on the jobsite using synthetic finish.

**Climatic Conditions**
The EIFS panels were prepared during the winter months, when little EIFS can generally be applied because of rain and low temperatures. It kept the contractor’s crew busy and enabled completion of the building on schedule.

**EIFS Durability**
All panels were finished on the job site with a sprayed synthetic finish for color, texture and weather protection. Factory blended and integrally colored, Parex Synthetic Finishes use only marble aggregates to prevent deleterious inorganic matter from creating staining.
Lightweight EIFS panels were attached to gypsum sheathing, shown here.

Panels were easily lifted up to the cornices.

Panels were cut from a solid piece of EPS board.

spots. In addition, marble provides color consistency.

The Hopewell Baptist Church construction illustrates the many advantages of panelization of EIFS. Steel framing and EIFS are probably one of the best systems for light commercial and institutional construction, and panelization is an additional option available for designers.