New Controlled-Drainage EIFS Satisfies North Carolina Building Code Changes

Like many Bostonians, James Walker Tuft often escaped to gender climates during the harsh New England winters. When he decided to create his own winter resort in 1895, he chose 5,000 acres of North Carolina timberland and planned an entire village to soothe the minds and bodies of winter-weary Northerners. Tufts engaged Frederick Law Olmstead, the renowned architect of New York’s Central Park and Boston’s “Emerald Necklace” of urban parks, to design a resort village named Pinehurst. Olmstead created an oval village green, winding roads and paths, and lush plantings.

Although the village offered tennis, horseback riding, polo, trap shooting, hunting and croquet, some guests preferred chipping golf balls among the cows in the dairy pasture. Tufts quickly built a golf course. A few years later, Tufts hired Donald J. Ross to rework the original course and to design additional courses. To celebrate its 100th birthday, Pinehurst has recently added a new course, designed by Tom Fazio, the Centennial-Pinehurst Number 8.

Many of the old buildings in the Pinehurst area are traditional stucco, and Ron Shirley of Carolina Specialties in Winston-Salem, N.C., worked with Pinehurst officials to find a way to duplicate that traditional appearance in the clubhouse for the newest course. Shirley said the goal was to achieve a traditional stucco look in a material that allows for flexible detailing and also includes a water drainage system and vapor barrier capable of meeting the stringent local requirements.

Although many products could duplicate the appearance of stucco, Shirley and contractor William Charles chose an exterior insulation and finish system from Senergy, Cranston, RI., because of its integrated Controlled Drainage System and its ability to support architectural details. Charles and his crews applied two different colors and textures on 21,000 square feet of building exterior and an additional 8,000 feet in retaining walls. Shirley notes that EIF systems were not popular with building inspectors at the time construction on clubhouse Number 8 began, and the project was very closely monitored. Once the inspectors examined the logical efficiency of the CD system, however, “The building inspectors were very happy,” Shirley says, “and they liked the system.”

Designer Robert Hyder and architect James R McVicker worked together to ensure that the new clubhouse would complement the graceful, older buildings in the area. The sprawling, hip-roofed structure with a traditional large overhang is finished with two to five inches of...
Senergy EIFS in a Sahara finish. Charles also created details on the front of the building, at the gables, at the top of the supporting columns and around the floor-to-ceiling Palladian windows. Although all the columns supporting the broad overhand are fiberglass, Charles created two EIFS columns for a gateway outside the clubhouse. Hyder showed Charles a picture of old columns outside a historic building. Charles made a rough sketch of the historic columns and then created his own pattern so he could fashion them out of EIFS.

In a resort with a reputation for choosing the best products and services, Senergy’s EIFS has played an important role. “They couldn’t get the look they wanted with any material other than stucco,” Charles says. He also has used these products to successfully do repair and restoration work on some of the traditional stucco buildings in Pinehurst.