The traffic light was green, but the cars were at a standstill. Curiosity was at an all-time high in the quiet Midwestern town of Arcanum, Ohio, population approximately 2,000, when a big green tarp went up over the exterior of the town’s Second National Bank.

With the paint peeling from numerous restorations on the outside of the bank, the time had come for a complete facelift. Sandblasting nearly 12 layers of paint from the sides of the building would be an option, but an expensive option. After sandblasting, the brick would have to go through a point and tuck. There are five other branches of the bank in the county and in past renovations, the bank had used metal panels or exposed aggregate paneling. But, the Arcanum bank’s exterior renovation would take a different path—an exterior insulation and finish system manufactured by Dryvit Systems, Inc., West Warwick, RI.

Shop Around

Ted Nealeigh & Sons Plastering Co. of Greenville, Ohio, stepped up with a solution. According to designer Dustin Nealeigh, three presentations were made to the bank’s board of directors to convince them that an exterior insulation and finish system was the best option both aesthetically and economically costing approximately $55,000. Nealeigh designed the new exterior facade for the bank using Dryvit’s Custom Brick finish (formally known as Ultra-Tex®) with a “Used Wall Brick” template.

To complement surrounding buildings, two custom colors were created to achieve a desired red coloring for the brick and a suede color for the grout. “Custom Brick” is a finish achieving the look of brick by using a template system.

“As we expected, the bank shopped around on the pricing for different exterior options after we had made our pitch,” Nealeigh said. The bank originally considered metal panels or possibly restoring the existing brick exterior through sandblasting. Restoring the
brick exterior would have cost between $80,000 to $90,000 more than the proposed EIF system. “In the end, they came back to us because our price was no match for the competition, and the EIFS was a better choice in order to stay within the architectural confines of the street.”

The bank used 1,500 square feet of Dryvit’s Outsulation® in combination with 5,300 square feet of the Custom Brick finish, and there were a number of benefits by opting for an EIF system. First, the system could be applied directly over the painted masonry by using standard adhesive and mechanical fasteners. Second, installation of the new exterior was swift, with the job taking only three and a half weeks to complete. Finally, by choosing an EIF system, there was little to no disruption of the bank’s normal day-to-day activity.

**Versatile EIFS**

The inherent design flexibility of an EIF system allowed Nealeigh to capture many of the architectural details of the original building. To replicate existing moldings over the second- and third-story windows, plasterers used EPS board for the main entrance and first floor windows. In another instance, plasterers used EPS to replicate corner brackets located under the over hang on the roof to match the original corner brackets still intact. As an added feature, stretching across the front and side of the building is a simulated limestone band. To give the appearance of chiseled stone, the words “Second National Bank” were cut nearly 1 inch into the surface of the band and beveled to give the look of cut stone.

When Nealeigh put up the scaffolding around the bank, they covered it in a large green tarp. “We did this for two reasons,” Nealeigh said. “First, for safety considerations, and second, to dramatically unveil the new look and pique peoples’ curiosity As a matter of fact, the town is still buzzing over the bank’s new look.”

Arcanum is not the only place buzzing over the work done by the Nealeighs. The company was recently honored for its work on the bank at a meeting of the
EIFS Industry Manufacturers Association. With three project award categories—new commercial, new residential and retrofit/remodel commercial—Nealeigh won an EIMA award for the best retrofit/remodel commercial job.

“We’ve entered the contest for the last five years, but this is the first time we’ve won,” Nealeigh said. “We’re extremely satisfied with the outcome of this job.”

Ted Nealeigh Plastering Co. opened its doors in 1970 and offers an extended line of products and services making the plastering business a regional leader. In 1993, sales topped $1 million and to this day the business continues to grow.