



**WAUSAU**

WINDOW AND WALL  
SYSTEMS

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*Photos by Matt Caldwell, Harmon, Inc.*

## Wausau's curtainwall and window systems contribute to award-winning University of Colorado Medical Research Facility



Wausau, Wis. (March 2009) – In January, the University of Colorado's Research Complex Phase 2 (R2) was honored with a 2008 "Top of the Rockies" award by the Colorado Glazing Contractors Association. Winning in the category of "Project of the Year Over \$3 Million," the award recognized the work of Harmon, Inc., its building team, and Wausau Window and Wall Systems, which manufactured the curtainwall and window systems for the \$236 million facility.

Thanks to the recent completion of R2, all of the University's Health Sciences Center staff and operations are now sited in one, 11-story, 550,000-square-foot location that accommodates researchers from the School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy. Designed by the same team that handled the University's Research Complex 1(R1) -- Fentress Architects of Denver, in collaboration with KlingStubbins of Philadelphia -- R2 is both aesthetically impressive and spatially innovative. Located across the quadrangle from R1 on the University's Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, R2 is similar in shape, size and exterior appearance.

Opened in October 2008, R2 places even greater emphasis on air ventilation, lab engineering, building operations and maintenance, and energy conservation. Contributing to these enhancements are unitized curtainwall and factory-glazed window wall systems from Wausau Window and Wall Systems on the east and west walls respectively, incorporating polyamide nylon thermal barriers. Both of these window spans drench the interior of R2 with natural light, and are designed to manage solar heat gain and to remain condensation-free at sub-zero temperatures. Extruded aluminum sun shades on south-facing exposures further enhance performance, while ornamental exterior trim covers add visual interest.

R2's several daylit conference rooms include a 4,000 square-foot divisible conference room that connects directly via an enclosed walkway to two auditoriums and pre-function space in R1. Harmon's glazing team installed this glass-enclosed walkway using Wausau's unitized curtainwall system. This same system was employed on R2's upper floors along with factory-glazed windows. For the first two floors, Harmon chose Wausau's SuperWall system. In total, Harmon installed more than 109,000 square feet of curtainwall and window systems manufactured by Wausau.

The window systems' distinctive glass features include nine different Viracon glass types in various silk screens and colors, and aluminum framing finished by Linetec. The glass and aluminum exterior of R2 is accented by 56,600 square feet of composite metal panels, column covers in eight different custom colors, and louvers provided by Crown Corr, plus hand-placed brick masonry.

General contractor Mortenson Construction's Denver office supervised and guided all aspects of the projects' exterior and interior construction. "Early on, Mortenson invited Harmon to prepare a technical-based design proposal for the exterior skin application on the project," recalls Harmon's senior sales representative, Joel Watson, LEED® Accredited Professional. "Along with the design team, we partnered with Wausau, Linetec, Viracon and Crown Corr to present a complete 'best value' model for

the project to the GC, architect and owner. Using this seamless process for the design, fabrication and installation of the entire skin of the building, we completed the project on time and on budget.”

For the building’ interior, R2’s flexible, open floor plan laboratory spaces allows for easy modification to address changing research protocols. Laboratories include movable cabinetry and casework, and the mechanical and electrical systems were designed to be accessible and easily updated. Other flexible features include north and south laboratory areas that are programmed to operate either as labs or as offices.



Underscoring its innovative design, R2 has received several awards. In addition to the above-noted Colorado Glazing Contractors Association’s award, *Consulting-Specifying Engineer Magazine*’s recognized the project with a Bronze Award for Advancing, Reinvigorating, and Cultivating Excellence in Engineering; *Colorado Construction* magazine named it as a Gold Hard Hat award-winner in the HealthCare category and rated it as an Overall Top Project of 2008.

“Wausau’s products and Harmon’s glazing expertise have long been represented on the best buildings and award-winning projects across the U.S.,” says Steve Fronek, Wausau’s vice president and leader of its technical services team. “We’re proud to contribute to R2’s high-profile example of outstanding architecture, engineering, construction, installation and materials.”

*Nationally recognized for its innovative expertise, Wausau Window and Wall Systems is an industry leader in engineering window and curtainwall systems for commercial and institutional construction applications. For more than 50 years, Wausau has worked closely with architects, building owners and contractors to realize their vision for aesthetic beauty, sustainability and lasting value, while striving to maintain the highest level of customer service, communication and overall satisfaction. Wausau is a part of Apogee Enterprises, Inc., a publicly held, U.S. corporation.*

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