



Building with conscience.

Omaha Central Library

The City of Omaha wanted an iconic look and design that broke from the tradition of red brick libraries

Facades



The StoVentec® Render Rainscreen® System delivered the design freedom needed for the project, allowing the architectural firm to create a beautiful, one-of-a-kind structure that looks more like a museum than a library.



Sto Products	StoVentec® Render Rainscreen® System
Architect	HDR
Applicator	E&K of Omaha
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A Modern Vision for a Civic Landmark

Public libraries have traditionally followed a familiar architectural formula, rectilinear forms, brick facades, and understated detailing. For the City of Omaha, that convention no longer reflects the evolving needs and identity of the community. The goal was clear: create a modern, architecturally distinctive library that would serve as both a civic resource and a cultural landmark.

To achieve this vision, the City partnered with HDR, a global design firm known for pushing the boundaries of civic architecture. The design team envisioned a building that broke away from traditional library aesthetics, favoring clean lines, bold geometry, and a facade more commonly associated with contemporary museums than public institutions.

An Architecturally Ambitious Design

The proposed design featured 19-foot-tall walls, extensive curved surfaces, and multiple radii at the ground level alone. Crisp horizontal lines and rounded corners defined the exterior, creating a visually dynamic facade that challenged conventional construction approaches.

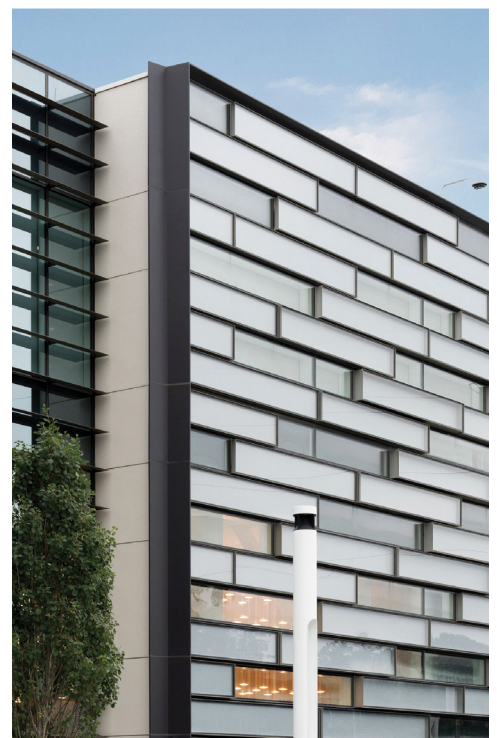
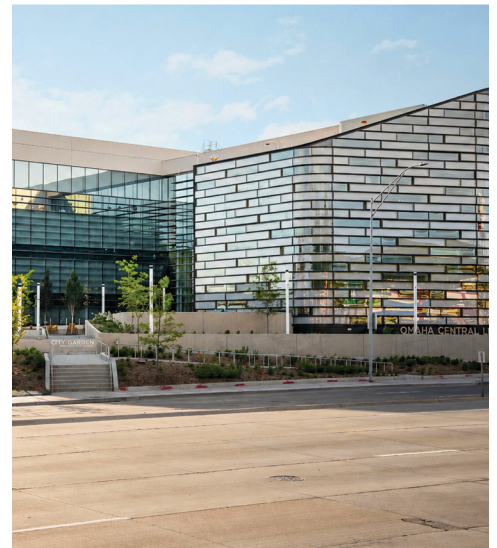
While the City embraced the bold design direction, executing these complex geometries required a façade system capable of delivering both aesthetic flexibility and reliable performance. Having specified Sto systems on previous projects, the design team selected the StoVentec Rainscreen System for its versatility, precision, and proven performance in demanding applications.

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A Proven System that Can Handle Corners

The biggest challenge with the design was, without question, the corners. They were everywhere! The StoVentec Render System provided the flexibility needed to execute the project's curved geometries and tall wall sections while maintaining a continuous, high-performance building envelope. As a complete, fully integrated rainscreen system, StoVentec combines continuous insulation, air and moisture management, engineered sub-framing, and exterior cladding into a single coordinated assembly. This systems-based approach allowed the project team to address performance requirements holistically rather than relying on piecemeal components. The back-ventilated render assembly allowed the design to transition smoothly around corners and radii, conditions that can be difficult to achieve with conventional cladding systems.

As a Rainscreen system, StoVentec is designed around a dual-wall system concept: an exterior cladding layer that deflects the majority of water and an inner wall assembly that manages any incidental moisture. Ventilation at the top and bottom of the wall promotes drainage and drying, helping to protect the structure and extend long-term durability.





The render assembly system consists of a back-ventilated clip and rail system comprised of insulation and t-rails, a recycled glass carrier board product that is very flexible, lightweight but strong. This configuration provides the flexibility needed to accommodate building movement and curved surfaces while maintaining finish integrity and aesthetic consistency.

Technical, Hands-On Training

Given the complexity of the façade, applicator training played a critical role in the project's success. The applicator E&K of Omaha had prior experience with StoVentec Render Systems but recognized that the extensive curves and tall wall sections would require additional planning and coordination. The project team participated in hands-on training at Sto's North American headquarters in Atlanta, where they worked

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Mark Brown | E&K of Omaha

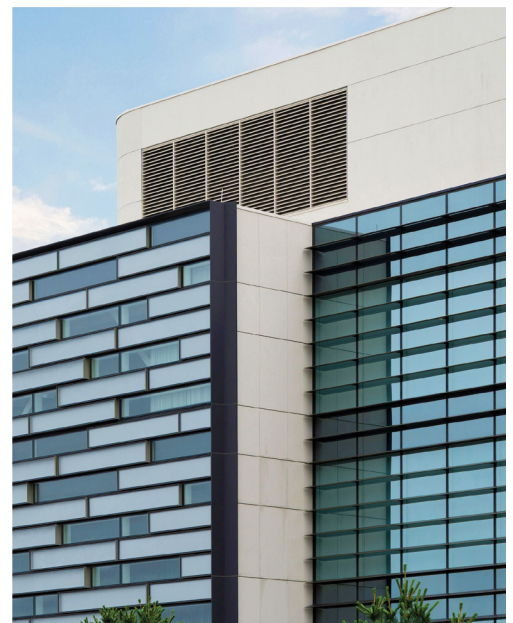
directly with Sto's technical specialists. During the training, the team refined installation techniques for curved geometries, learned best practices for working with the clip-and-rail system on radii, and collaborated on a preferred joint layout that allowed for a more fluid, continuous installation process.

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A New Page in Library Design

Construction was completed in October 2025, with two crews working through the summer to bring the architect's vision to life. Despite the project's complexity, the façade was delivered on schedule and within budget.

Today, the Omaha Public Library stands as a contemporary civic landmark, one that reflects the City's commitment to thoughtful design, community engagement, and long-term performance. The completed building has been widely praised for its architectural presence and serves as a testament to what is possible when design ambition is paired with the right facade system and technical support.







Where Inspiration Takes Shape.

With Sto, your creative exploration can take you anywhere. Our proven products give you unmatched freedom and the ability to achieve your vision in any color, any form, any texture, any material. With StoVentec® Render, aesthetics and performance work together to create virtually limitless design possibilities.

Available in a wide range of colors, textures, and finishes, StoVentec Render allows architects to achieve seamless façades, curved surfaces, and custom forms while benefiting from the proven performance of a complete ventilated rainscreen system. Rest assured, Sto is there wherever your inspiration leads.

Creativity Begins. **Sto Finishes.®**



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