Union Towers I
StoTherm® ci System Overclad Gives Multi-Family High Rise an Energy Efficient Facelift

Union Towers I received its facelift by using a cost-effective, energy efficient system that would provide an air tight building and additional insulation for increased thermal performance, while adding a modern design aesthetic to keep the building attractive.

Sto Products | StoTherm® ci Lotusan®
Owner | Union Congregational Church Homes, Inc.
Applicator | Rima Design, LLC
Contractor | Dellbrook Construction
Architect | McKinnelle & Taylor, Inc.
Distributor | Kamco Supply of Boston
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Union Towers I | Weymouth, MA

The A.R.T. of reStore™

Aesthetics
Repair
Transformation

Union Towers I in Weymouth, Massachusetts was suffering from moisture intrusion and heat loss. The approximately 60,000 square feet, 11 story brick residential building with retail stores on the first floor was built in the early 1970s without proper insulation, and had dealt with water infiltration issues from day one. “Wind was blowing through the windows and the building was covered with sealant,” said architect Bob MacLeod, RA, of McKinnell, McKinnell & Taylor Inc. “The cost to repair the deteriorating brick and mortar joints was determined to be prohibitive. We knew we needed to coat the entire building with an air barrier to make the building tight and we wanted to provide additional insulation for increased thermal performance. Updating the aesthetic of the building with a modern design was also a priority.”

After talking with Sto distributor, Wayne Blounts with Kamco Supply of Boston, and touring other buildings with Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems, they determined that a Sto reStore Level 3 Overclad with a StoTherm ci system would provide a cost-effective solution while also delivering the additional insulation they desired. They specified a StoTherm ci Lotusan® system with an inch and one-half EPS for the renovation project.

“Having continuous insulation was a big factor in their decision to give the apartments an energy upgrade with external insulation, along with easy maintenance and an attractive design.”

Wayne Blounts | Kamco Supply | Boston

StoTherm ci Lotusan is a continuous insulation wall system. The high-performance, energy efficient wall cladding integrates several components – StoGuard®, waterproof air barrier, StoTherm insulated cladding and drainage, and StoLit® Lotusan, a textured finish with self-cleaning properties that mimics the self-cleaning capabilities of the lotus leaf.

“At first, they were going to use forms and metal panels for shapes and we are so pleased they chose the StoTherm ci Lotusan system,” said Blounts. “Having continuous insulation was a big factor in their decision to give the apartments an energy upgrade with external insulation, along with easy maintenance and an attractive design.”

“Overcladding the brick with the StoTherm ci Lotusan from top to bottom created an airtight, energy efficient façade,” noted MacLeod. “And with the design flexibility of the system we could creatively separate the design of the façade with horizontal and vertical patterns to give it more character.”
The windows were also replaced, which proved to be an interesting challenge. According to applicator Dinko Beharic of Rima Designs, LLC, when the carpenters were removing the windows, his team would follow in and apply a double coat of Sto Gold Coat, the ready-mixed fluid applied air and moisture barrier membrane, sealing the windows to eliminate any potential leaking. Doubling the Sto Gold Coat also made it impossible to see the brick through it.

“We continued to work that way, sealing, caulking, flashing, and pre-wrapping along every step of the process,” said Dinko.

“In the first year, I noticed a 30 – 40 percent energy savings on my heating and cooling costs directly due to the Sto system.”

Dinko Beharic | Rima Designs, LL

Another challenge was maneuvering around the large building.

“We used three, 80-foot boom lifts, swing staging off the side of the building,” said Dinko. “Safety is always our first priority and we remained safe, as did all of the occupants. On particularly windy days we couldn’t get up there to work, especially when we got to the top floors.”

When the façade overclad project was approximately 80 percent complete, there was a break due to a very cold winter. The application team added primer to all the base coat and took every precaution. They experienced extreme cold, snow and rain. During the winter break, the team was proud to report no leaks or concerns of any kind, which was especially important because the building was occupied the entire time.

Union Towers I expects to see substantial decreases in energy consumption once the project is complete. Dinko has personally used Sto’s systems on three of his own residential housing projects.

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The massive size, the architect's particularly stunning, creative design and the self-cleaning, textured finish of Stolit Lotusan make this project really stand out.

“It now looks like a beautiful, new and completely different building,” says Blounts.
A history of turning inspiration into reality.

Inspiration favors the open mind. 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.

Now, with The A.R.T. of reStore™, Sto provides a comprehensive solution that focuses on maintenance, repair, and energy improvements that safeguard the long term value of your investment. Whether it requires simple maintenance, or a complete facade restoration, Sto helps you update and repair your building’s exterior with any aesthetic that you desire. Follow your inspiration, and Sto will provide everything your building design needs: products, support, services and surfaces.

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