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EPA Flat Roof Patio

Location:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Narragansett, Rhode Island

Contractor:

Marc Green
Custom Copper and Slate, Ltd.
Medfield, Massachusetts

Project:

Flat Roof
288 Sq Ft

Solution:

VAST Composite
Deck Pavers

Completed:

2009



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Rooftop Patio Created with VAST Composite Deck Pavers Tops off New Green Roof at EPA Building in Rhode Island

The original 1963 roof at Building 1 at the EPA's Atlantic Ecology Division in Rhode Island had a wood deck outside the director's office. In 2009, the time had come for the roof to be replaced. "Consistent with the mission of the EPA, we specified a green roof," said Mark Tagliabue, assistant facilities manager, Office of Research and Development, Atlantic Ecology Division, EPA.

Custom Copper and Slate was the project contractor. They were concerned that a composite lumber deck would put enough weight on its crossbeams to require a supporting substructure with posts anchored to the roof through the Thermoplastic Olefin

(TPO) membrane that waterproofs the surface. "With TPO, you want it to be seamless to ensure it'll be waterproof. Penetrating the membrane to put in posts is something we try to avoid," said Marc Green, Custom Copper and Slate, Ltd. "The last thing we want is to have to come back to fix leaks."

Concrete pavers were considered, but they would have introduced their own weight problem. Green brought the problem to Mule-Hide Products, manufacturer of the TPO system, to get their suggestions. They recommended VAST Composite Pavers because they are light weight and could be installed without putting posts through the membrane.



“The best part of the project for me was when the director walked out the door and on to the patio for the first time. He had an ear-to-ear smile on his face that said all that needed to be said about the results of the installation.”

Marc Green
Custom Copper and Slate, Ltd.

“My first impression of VAST was that it’s ideal for rooftop applications,” said Steffano Gagliano, the project architect. “The pavers are tough but lightweight, offer the timeless visual appeal of brick pavers, and we could match the paver color with the building’s exterior walls and the sedum to be planted for the green roof. That helped achieve a blending of the architectural elements of the roof.”

“VAST solved the weight problem,” said the EPA’s Tagliabue. “The recycled content makes it a green product and that was consistent with our goal of going green up on the roof.”

VAST’s engineered paver solution features an installation grid system that makes it easier and faster for professional contractors to lay the pavers. When the pavers are inserted into the grid, they are correctly spaced and aligned. “We put the grid directly on top of the drain mat that went over the membrane,” said Green. “The material was great to work with: easy to carry, easy to cut, and easy on your hands. We found out that with VAST we can reduce installation time by half.”

“With the size of the pavers and give in the material, it could follow the contour of the roof and accept

the roof’s slight rise. The installers got a nice, tight fit right up to the edges,” said Tagliabue. “The low profile of the pavers made the patio flush with the door from the director’s office so you can walk right out on the patio.”

VAST Enterprises, LLC

VAST applies its patented technology to transform recycled materials into a new resource for green building: composite masonry. VAST composite products — including landscape pavers, permeable pavers for stormwater management, deck pavers and thin brick — offer an engineered alternative to molded concrete and clay brick. Award-winning VAST pavers deliver rich colors, superior slip resistance and unbeatable strength at one-third the weight of concrete pavers.

Made from 95 Percent Recycled Materials

VAST helps projects earn LEED® certification easier than any other pavement. Every 5,000-square foot VAST landscape installation keeps 2,500 scrap automobile tires and 75,000 plastic containers out of U.S. landfills.



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