



Philadelphia's Comcast Center

by Heather Collins

Woven-metal mesh from Cambridge Architectural clads walls, desks and an elevator inside the new Comcast Center building in downtown Philadelphia. The 975-foot-tall, glass-encased high rise is one of the city's tallest buildings and one of the nation's tallest green office buildings. Designed to achieve Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, the structure had architects and engineers seeking sustainable building elements for every square foot of it.

A Cambridge LandscapeInteriors™ woven-metal fabric system was chosen to dress Comcast Center's main lobby – one its biggest attractions. The mesh adds a design aesthetic, complementing the lobby's centerpiece, "The Comcast Experience": a 2,100-square-foot video wall displaying unique high-definition programming from nature footage to urban landscapes. The system was used for sustainable elevator, desk and wall cladding.

The mesh and its corresponding attachment hardware are readily recyclable and were man-

“The architects had a dream, and Cambridge helped to make it happen.”

—Ted Lloyd

ufactured from recycled materials. Furthermore, stainless steel requires minimal maintenance and cleaning after installation, and has a long life cycle. In terms of visual appeal, Cambridge’s mesh is intended to catch the eye of visitors entering the building, while complementing the futuristic feel of the lobby and deviating from the more traditional components of the space.

According to Serge Nalbantian, director of Urban & National Projects for Liberty Property Trust (the building owner):

“Cambridge’s mesh contrasted with the softness of the lobby’s natural wood walls, while contributing to the building’s overall tailored look with just the right texture. More than anything, we liked the texture. We also chose the mesh for its flexibility. Cambridge gave us a good selection of stainless steel, and even performed a custom installation to bend the fabric along the compound curve of the lobby desks.”

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Bottom left: The cladding appears extensively inside the elevators and on their lobby walls.

Bottom right: The system was fabricated with mesh in Cambridge’s Ritz pattern, which features flexible open weaves that resemble jewelry chains.





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Cambridge assisted and consulted with the Comcast Center team from initial design to final installation, enabling Cambridge to develop a solution for cladding the unique shapes within the interior space. Cambridge's Panel™ tension attachment hardware was used to install the Ritz product. The metal fabric is first attached to a substrate, and Z-clips join the panels to the substructure.

Construction on the Comcast Center was completed in June 2008. The project team consisted of architect Robert A.M. Stern, contractor/installer Patella Woodworking, elevator cab manufacturer Emco Elevator and owner Liberty Property Trust.



Heather Collins is director of marketing for Cambridge Architectural. She boasts over 13 years of senior management leadership in marketing, corporate sales and business development.

Collins' responsibilities at Cambridge include the development and execution of strategic planning and tactical business-development programs.



The pattern can be installed as a window treatment, virtual space divider or dynamic design element with track hardware.

