RDH BUILDING SCIENCE

Robert Orlowski | ASCT

Associate, Façade Specialist

Rob Orlowski's focus at RDH is on design and construction review for the building enclosure of large new construction projects, and the investigation of performance problems associated with building enclosures.

Expertise + Experience

Rob's experience has included a variety of skylight, curtain wall, window, window wall, masonry, metal panel, and stucco/EIFS systems, and most conventional roofing and waterproofing systems.

Rob has expertise with a variety of glazing technologies. Window manufacturers have utilized his skills to help update their system designs to meet increasing performance requirements and improve the integration with high performance wall assemblies. During the design and shop drawing phases of projects, Rob's knowledge of glazed systems is used to integrate project performance requirements and design intent with the various glazing systems capabilities.

Rob has investigated a wide variety of water ingress and condensation problems, many of which have led to the implementation of rehabilitation programs. Rob undertakes field review, testing, and assistance to resolve site issues. His extensive experience, as part of quality assurance reviews, has led to his role in developing many of RDH's testing protocols and procedures.

Producing comprehensive maintenance and renewals manuals is a key part of new and existing building enclosure projects. Rob assists with preparation of these manuals including maintenance timeline/task matrixes and system functionality summaries.

Before earning a diploma focusing on Building Science, Rob worked for two years as a residential and commercial framer. He joined RDH in Vancouver in 1998.

Rob is an Associate and shareholder of RDH and is committed to the success of RDH projects.

Education

Dipl. T., Building Engineering Technology (Building Science Option) with Honours, British Columbia Institute of Technology

Dipl. T., Construction Engineering Technology, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, AB

ITC Certified Building Investigations Thermographer (Level 1)

Memberships

Member, Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)

Typical Projects

FORENSIC INVESTIGATION + REHABILITATION

- Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, AB – Evaluation of air barrier systems. Work included smoke exfiltration testing to confirm integrity of the building's air barrier. The building consists of a complex, metal-clad borealis wave penetrating a zinc panel-clad and curtain wall glazed building.
- One Wall Centre, Vancouver, BC – Assisted with the design and implementation of the re-glazing of a high-end, fully glazed residential tower.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

- River Green, Richmond, BC – Provided design concept review and field review for this waterfront residential project of eight mid-rise buildings featuring a unitized curtain wall and stone panel cladding and a 50,000 sq ft multi-level water feature.
- Nisga'a Museum, Nass River Valley, BC – Design and construction review, verification, and implementation of a high performance air tight enclosure. The museum's entire air barrier was commissioned with smoke tracer testing.

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- Bravern, Seattle, WA – Assisted with the curtain wall design in the testing and shop drawing phases of a design/build unitized curtain wall system. Performed field verification and implementation of all enclosure systems on a high-end, high-rise residential building comprising a blend of unitized curtain wall and precast concrete panels.
- The Casey, Portland, OR – Provided design and construction review, verification, and implementation of a stick-built curtain wall system. This high-end high-rise residential building includes a commercial complex incorporating illuminated art glazing panels into the curtain wall system.
- Ladd Tower, Portland, OR – Provided design and construction review, verification, and implementation of a design-build unitized curtain wall system. This high-end high-rise residential building includes a commercial complex and is clad almost completely with the curtain wall system accented by stone cladding.
- Taylor Street, Portland, OR – Design review for a LEED Platinum condominium building complete with 4-storey atrium, solar panel system, and rain water collection and recycling system.

Publications

- "Condensation and Indoor Air Quality Problems as a Result of High Performance Building Enclosures – The Need for Integrated Design and a New Investigation Protocol." Paper presented at Building Envelope Technology Symposium, San Antonio, TX, 2010.