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Aluminum spiral duct highlights Del. athletic club

As many achievements often do, the Hockessin Athletic Club began with one man's vision. No one could have guessed that a longtime dream of Bob Carpenter would be to provide Hockessin, Del., with such a first-rate facility, and a host of area businesses with the portfolio addition of a lifetime.

Carpenter, proud owner of the club, started off on a smaller scale when he purchased Wilmington, Del.'s Pike Creek Fitness Club in 1988. As the club grew in popularity, Carpenter realized the time had come to grow the business.

The Pine Creek club was located in a residential area, however, and unsuitable for expansion. After consultations with experts and studying the local market, new land was purchased to house the athletic club Carpenter always wanted.

In June 2007, that dream was realized as the doors to the state-of-the-art facility in Hockessin, Del., opened to a very excited community.

But the dream didn't materialize overnight. It took years of planning and work to get the project started. And perhaps the most intense part of the entire project was the 25,000-square-foot aquatic complex, the first of its kind in Delaware. Complete with a lap pool, a warm-lesson pool, and a water park with beachlike access, this complex provided a challenge to local contractors that few had seen before.



Maryland manufacturer Wm. H. Brady supplied six additional dual-wall spiral-duct systems located throughout the athletic center. The duct has 1-inch insulation and was manufactured from galvanealed material so it could be painted to match the interior décor.

Ventilation details

The HVAC work was headed up by Service Unlimited Inc. from New Castle, Del. Ralph Rose, the project manager, said that the new facility was "one of the most complex projects" they had ever completed.

And it's not hard to see why. The entire area is maintained year-round with a 45,000-cfm air-handling unit provided by ICE Inc., and a 395,000-btu boiler by Laars. In addition, the flooring in the complex has radiant heat running through 10,000 linear feet of Wirsbo PEX tubing.

While these features make an impression on those who know the heating and ventilation business, there is one aspect of the HVAC work that impresses many others who enter the facility and look up — the exposed spiral ductwork.

The ductwork in the aquatic complex is all aluminum and provided by Wm. H. Brady Inc., located in Elkton, Md.

There is more 522 linear feet of aluminum spiral located in the complex, starting off at 60 inches in diameter, and paring down to the run-outs, which are 22 inches in diameter.

Brady workers cut-in all of the Price diffusers and installed them for Service Unlimited. With the complex featuring a retractable atrium roof, the structure had to be in place before any duct could be hung. Installation was completed by using a crane to lower the spiral duct through the open atrium roof.

Special needs

Care had to be taken to insure that no damage was done to the duct. Connections for the spiral and fittings are the new Quick Draw Accuflange, provided by Spinfinity, which Wm. H. Brady officials said provided a quick, easily managed connection of the duct and fittings.

All Accuflange materials were factory-installed at Brady's s 25, 000-square-foot Elkton facility.

Aside from the spiral located in the natatorium, Wm. H. Brady also supplied six additional spiral-duct systems located throughout the athletic center. These systems are dual-wall with 1-inch insulation and were manufactured from galvanealed material so that it could be painted to match the interior décor.



The Hockessin Athletic Club in Hockessin, Del., is a huge and popular facility that features extensive use of spiral ductwork.



The new Hockessin Athletic Club in Hockessin, Del., has more 522 linear feet of aluminum spiral ductwork made by Wm. H. Brady Inc. of Elkton, Md.

Service Unlimited provided more than 50,000 pounds of rectangular duct that was lined with 1-inch-thick liner from Certainteed Corp. This ductwork helped distribute the 325 tons of heating and cooling provided by 31 Carrier packaged rooftop units.

Service Unlimited received the Associated Builders and Contractors of Delaware's Excellence in Construction Award for mechanical construction under \$2 million for their work on this project.

"ABC commends Service Unlimited Inc. for its outstanding work on the Hockessin Athletic Club," said ABC Delaware President Edward J. Capadanno. "The Excellence in Construction Award honors the best of the best in construction in the First State," he added, referring Delaware's nickname as one of the 13 original colonies that made up the United States.

This article and its images were supplied by Wm. H. Brady Inc. ☀