



Nickerson-Remick

CASE STUDY: COMMERCIAL

North Branch Construction



North Branch Construction, Inc. is one of the most successful construction firms in New Hampshire, having just begun its 50th year of operation, with its name attached to major projects throughout the Granite State and northern Massachusetts.

The award-winning firm specializes in institutional buildings such as schools, libraries, and municipal structures (police and fire stations), commercial office space, as well as retail, medical, and recreational facilities.

Recent projects include: an office building for yogurt-maker Stonyfield Farms and a soccer facility at Dartmouth College.

A key reason for North Branch's success is its management, says Marketing Director Karen MacDonald. "The five owners of the company are all closely involved in day-to-day operations," MacDonald says.

Nickerson-Remick helps North Branch Construction take LEED in Green Building with spray foam as a key part of an award-winning design for Portsmouth Public Library

Another factor is remaining innovative in its approaches to building design. North Branch is becoming known for its projects bearing the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) distinction awarded by the US Green Building Council, MacDonald says.*

One of North Branch's most renowned LEED projects is the Portsmouth Public Library, a two-story, 38,000 square foot structure built on the site of the former Armory on Parrott Avenue.

The \$8 million building, which opened in December 2006, reinforces Portsmouth's architecture and provides every modern convenience a library needs. The building was also designed to reduce noise and be energy efficient.

One tool employed to help reach those goals, a crucial component for LEED certification, was NCFI closed cell polyurethane foam insulation from Nickerson-Remick.

Approximately 20,000 square feet of spray foam insulation, providing an R-value of 14 and two inches of thickness, was applied to the building's exterior.

The foam provided a sound barrier between the library and nearby residences. The building's open design, chosen to utilize more natural light, is conducive to echoes.

Foam provided other benefits as well. The Nickerson-Remick Polyurethane helps the building maintain a stronger structure—keeping it in superior condition over time—eliminates air infiltration, and drastically lowers heating and cooling bills.

The New Hampshire Business Review cited energy models (performed by Andelman and Lelek Engineering Inc.) that indicated the library's heating, cooling, and ventilation system would consume 32.5 percent less energy than a standard system.

The building's performance pleased Portsmouth city manager John Bohenko, who noted the high marks the library achieved in the areas of energy conservation, recycling (North Branch recycled 75 percent of the Armory building), and materials' selection.

In August 2007, the library became the first municipal building in New Hampshire to receive Silver-Level LEED certification.

Later that year, Associated Builders and Contractors honored North Branch with an "Excellence in Construction" award for its work on the library.

** North Branch recently moved into their new corporate headquarters in Concord, NH - which was designed and built for LEED certification.*



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