



A cut above the rest:

Craftsmanship sets winning contractors apart

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Diversity distinguishes metal roofing, which can be used on so many types of buildings in both the commercial and residential sectors. Different metal types, shapes, seaming methods and colors combine in a myriad of possibilities to produce dramatic looks—but only through the diligent efforts of skilled installers.

The winners of the 9th annual RSI Metal Roofing Projects of the

Year Awards embody these time-tested skills on challenging jobs, as the following accounts will demonstrate. These outstanding roofing contractors are scheduled to receive their award plaques during the annual Metalcon convention in Atlanta at the end of October.

RSI is proud to present the winners of its 2000 Metal Roofing Projects of the Year awards. □

A&M Roofing: The time was right for metal roofing

A&M Roofing and Sheet Metal Co. Inc., Andover, MA recently completed—in good time—the copper roof restoration on the Ayer Mill Clock Tower in the neighboring town of Lawrence, MA, located about 15 miles north of Boston.

Second to none, this project earned first-place honors in the Restoration category of this year's RSI Metal Roofing Awards program.

Massachusetts' history as a textile manufacturing center in the nineteenth century is shown in this copper-topped clock tower, built in 1910 as part of a mill complex by the American Woolen Company. At a height of 267 feet, this clock tower's four dials, lit by 125 bulbs on each face, and a 6,000-pound bell make it a landmark in the Merrimack Valley.

In fact, the Ayer Mill Clock Tower houses the largest tower clock built by the E. Howard Clock Company, which specialized in that kind of clock, and it is very close to London's famous Big Ben in size.

It is clearly visible from the nearby section of I-495 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Merrimack Valley Community Foundation Inc. now owns the tower and spearheaded a major restoration of the clock and, more recently, the tower itself. The reroofing project was directed by George Namour of the architectural firm of MacLaren Associates, Andover.

Restoration of the batten seam copper roof was A&M's job. It used copper from Revere Copper Products Inc., Rome, NY on the battens, curved and flat panels, crimped hips, and dormer trim.

This job presented numerous challenges. These included the construction of a 260-ft.

scaffolding to support a multi-level work platform. This construction was limited by the tower's location straddling two buildings and directly above the shipping/receiving area of two large companies. To address that issue, a huge steel girder was installed above the entrance to support the structure and keep the trucks moving.

When the staging was up and they got to work, A&M workers saw that they'd also have to replace about 60% of the tower's wood decking.

The company owns two cranes. The taller one, which can reach 147 feet, was put to good use on this project.

To move materials and equipment up to the work platform, A&M utilized electric hoists.

Further complicating the installation process were the unfriendly overtures of a pair of hawks.

Ornamental features had to be reproduced to exact historic standards. A&M craftsmen

carefully measured and then precisely replicated each roof element in its sheet metal shop. Once fabricated, these elements were hand-crafted in place.

A&M subsequently arranged to have the complicated round dormers and the decorative leaves below the weathervane fabricated overseas at the German plant of Ornametals of Decatur, AL.

The six-man installation crew used safety harnesses, lanyard and steel cable anchorage. The project took 6,400 manhours—all without injury.

Installers worked on it from last summer all the way through till March. On cold or windy days, they'd choose to work on a warmer or more protected side of the clock tower.

Company background

Allen P. Marin, president, A & M Roofing, recently celebrated his 37th anniversary in the roofing industry. Marin admits that he's always felt a special affinity and aptitude for sheet metal work, so he was especially surprised and pleased to learn from a relative, several years after going into roofing, that his great-grandfather has been a sheet metal mechanic in Russia. Evidently, it must run in the family.

Over his time in the roofing industry, Marin notes, he's pleased to see how the industry's level of professionalism has increased dramatically.

He formed A&M in 1978. In peak periods, it employs about 30 people.

The company's handsome Web site, www.amroofing.net, was launched a few months ago and has already produced several leads, Marin reports. It can also be accessed from the Web site of the Northeast Roofing Contractors Assn. (NERCA), which Marin has belonged to for years.

A&M offers a full range of services, including installation, inspections, consulting, scheduled maintenance, and emergency repairs, and works mostly in the state of Massachusetts. It installs a variety of roofing materials including, in order from most to

least, EPDM, PVC, TPO and built-up roofing. Its job roster includes the Portsmouth Regional Hospital, the Barrington Arts Center at Gordon College, the Salem District Courthouse, and the Sheraton Tara Hotel in Nashua, NH to name just a few.

In the last few years, A&M has begun to focus on growing its metal roofing business. Already, the contractor has upped its share of metal roofing from about 10% of the company's overall work to 25%. "It's definitely growing," Marin reports. "We're trying to focus on specializing in challenging, detail-oriented projects and are definitely seeking

out metal work to help distinguish our company from all the competition."

Of all the metal roofing projects that the company has done so far, Marin acknowledges that the Ayer Mill Clock Tower was its most challenging job ever. "We are especially proud," he says, "to be associated with a project that so visibly demonstrates our commitment to quality." □

The copper roof atop the Ayer Mill Clock Tower in Lawrence, MA was restored in a timely fashion by A&M Roofing, Andover, MA. The work earned a first-place award in the restoration/renovation category.

