



DISNEY CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

BURBANK, CALIFORNIA

Designed by architect Michael Graves with collaboration from Gruen Associates, this impressive headquarters was completed in 1990 to house the world's largest and most visible of entertainment empires.

When contemplating the building design, both the architects and the building owner, The Walt Disney Company, knew they wanted to portray the company's strength and firm foundation, and accomplished both through the use of natural stone. The stone installation contract had been awarded to Carrara Marble Company of America as a hand-set application. However, with stone shipment delays and regimented testing criteria, it soon became evident that the installation schedule was in jeopardy.

Stone Type: Baruli Red Sandstone

Cladding Total:
32,000 SF

Installation Method:
Galvanized Stud Panels

"KEPCO+'s prefabricated stone panels served to elevate and set the acceptable standards of construction which the field set stone was then to meet."

Michael Graves Architects

KEPCO+ was requested by Carrara Marble to explore a panelized option in an effort to get the schedule back on track. The company accepted this challenge and within weeks was awarded a subcontract to pre-assemble a significant portion of the exterior stone cladding. Shortly thereafter, the design architects expressed concern that the panelized elevations would not match the handset portions of the building due to potential joint differentials and the nature of the cleft surface material. Because they wanted the stone on the building to appear as large cubic stone blocks set in a traditional masonry running bond pattern, the corner pieces of the thin stone veneer, only 1" to 1½ " thick, were epoxied together to give the appearance of a solid piece of stone. Additionally, the project specs included that the stone joints were to be a 3/8" width. With the help of consulting design engineers, KEPCO+ was able to achieve a panel system that met all design criteria.

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Through the use of panels, KEPCO+ was able to cut three months from the construction schedule, ensuring deadlines would be met while maintaining the desired look of a handset job.