

CASE STUDY: PARK SQUARE AT DORAL
LOCATION: MIAMI, FL



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Located next to the International Airport of Miami, Park Square at Doral is one of the first views arriving passengers have upon arrival in Miami. A suburb of Miami, Doral is a newly incorporated city in Florida and is home to approximately 30,000 residents and 100,000 individuals who work there. As a business and residential community, the customer—Village at Doral Commercial—was looking to create a welcoming, upscale, and vibrant look to reflect the adjacent residential neighborhood.

Park Square at Doral is situated on the site of a former logistics warehouse. Fifty percent of the property was allocated for mixed-use and high density building and the other fifty percent for a new townhouse community and major park. The Park Square at Doral area is a focal point of this bustling community and provides much-needed additional parking plus office space.

Zyscovich Architects, a local Miami firm was tasked with incorporating the multi-story parking/office building into the overall structure of the park; creating a contemporary structure with an open feel. The urban sensibility of the project relied on the integration of the various qualities and uses of the new built environment.

After the design of the structure was finalized, Zysovich Architects chose GKD's Omega metal mesh fabric to be used in conjunction with other exterior materials. The Parking Garage at Park Square at Doral had specific challenges. It needed to withstand the elements and provide protection from inclement weather including hurricanes, while also providing natural ventilation. GKD's stainless steel fabric can withstand wind speeds of a Category 4 hurricane (up to 146 mph) making it an ideal product for hurricane-prone areas.

An additional consideration was maintenance, as buildings in Florida are exposed to extreme weather conditions and maintaining the exterior of the building could prove to be costly. The stainless steel properties of the metal mesh mean that maintenance is almost non-existent and cleaning requires no harsh chemicals, making it an environmentally sound choice. Another consideration was the products ability to provide shade to the building where needed, and here again, metal mesh proved to be the right material. GKD's metal mesh provides sunshading while at the same time allowing natural ventilation and air flow through the structure which reduces the buildings energy needs.



Once the choice of material was approved, the architects worked with GKD to create a façade for the building that would provide everything needed mechanically and structurally, but one that would also be visually arresting. Using a custom, varied width stainless steel mesh in the Omega line of woven metal fabric, GKD manufactured 104 panels which were framed and then attached to the concrete and stucco structure. These panels were placed in a way that mimicked a chess board pattern. The challenge in putting the 'board' together was the precision with which each panel had to be arranged. The result is a shimmering 26,000 square foot structure with a structural metal mesh façade that creates almost three-dimensional effects. From the outside, the patchwork design is apparent, but from within, the mesh virtually disappears, allowing a panoramic view of the surrounding area.