



CASE STUDY:
**Westhampton
Parking Garage**

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Metal Mesh Adds Performance and Curb Appeal to an Apartment Parking Garage

Parking garages are by nature utilitarian structures, and far too often treated as an afterthought in design. But it doesn't have to be that way. Parking is important to the daily operation of communities everywhere, and there are ways to marry form and function.

The Westhampton Parking Garage in Richmond, VA exemplifies how parking can shine. Owner Thalhimer Reality Partners enlisted the designers at Glave & Holmes Architecture to deliver both performance and aesthetics to the structure.

"The parking garage provides the majority of car and bike parking requirements for a four-building, mixed-use development that includes office, retail and multifamily residential components," says Andrew Moore, AIA, Senior Principal at Glave & Holmes Architecture. "The garage is wrapped on two sides by 62 apartments. Having ample on-site parking was important for the commercial tenants and satisfies the expectation of the targeted apartment dwellers, who trend towards the higher end of the market."

To achieve the required results, the architect specified a decorative exterior mesh façade system from GKD to create attractive façade for the structure while adding an additional layer of protection and performance.

"The metal mesh system was selected for a very specific reason," Moore recalls. "Because the parking garage is designed to be naturally ventilated, there are specific requirements for minimum perimeter openness. Furthermore, since two adjacent sides are blocked by apartments, the openness requirement is even higher."

The project utilized 4,204 square feet of GKD's Omega 1530 weave on the garage's exterior. A full-service, turnkey provider who provides engineering, design, fabrication and installation of the metal fabric system, GKD was able to meet the very specific needs and tight tolerances of this project.

"For the elevation where the mesh system was applied, we had an additional zoning requirement to screen the parking garage with a specific maximum percentage of openness," Moore explains. "The range of openness between the minimum percentage needed for natural ventilation and the maximum percentage of openness to meet the zoning requirement was less than 1 percent. We had to select a metal mesh system that met those very specific requirements and fortunately, GKD had a system that worked."

"Our metal fabric provided an elegant upgrade to the existing concrete garage structure," says Shawn Crismond, GKD Regional Sales Manager. "The mesh was also chosen due to its robustness, durability and corrosion resistance."

"The project has been well-received by the community and appreciated by the tenants," Moore says. "The apartments and commercial space are 100 percent leased and the parking provided by the garage is an amenity for all its users. The GKD mesh system was an essential element to achieve a code- and zoning-compliant project."



PROJECT TEAM:

Thalhimer Realty Partners
Owner

Glave & Holmes Architecture
Architect

