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**THE MUNY THEATER CASTS QUIKRETE® IN COOL RENOVATION ROLE**  
*Continuous Insulation (CI) Wall System with Stucco Finish Delivers Strong Performance*

**ST. LOUIS (Aug. 22, 2019)** – As part of a \$100 million capital campaign, The Muny opened its 101<sup>st</sup> season in June with a \$33 million facelift highlighted by a new rotating stage, lights, LED screen, orchestra pit and other amenities to enhance the visitor experience. A welcome, but less visible element of renovating the country’s oldest and largest outdoor musical theater are two mechanical rooms fitted with industrial fans and air ducts to cool guests during summer shows. A Continuous Insulation (CI) wall system finished with QUIKRETE® One Coat Fiberglass Reinforced Stucco (FRS) was used rather than Exterior Insulation Finishing System (EIFS) to give the buildings housing the mechanical rooms, green room, electrical rooms and storage the attractive, durable exterior befitting The Muny.

Located on the second-floor of two architectural shell-shaped towers constructed of steel, concrete, concrete masonry units and drywall that frame each side of the stage, the mechanical rooms are critical renovation elements to the overall comfort of The Muny. “The mechanical rooms are home to our audience air distribution system, which provides gentle breezes theatre-wide on warm summer nights,” explained Sean Smith, director of operations for The Muny. Ironically, the mechanical rooms designed to cool The Muny audience were protected from winter weather during construction by a tarp covering the exterior wall system of the two buildings. As a result, the project was completed on schedule.

“St. Louis experienced an unusually cold and harsh winter, which impacted the entire project including the wall system,” noted Josh Phillips, vice president with stucco installer Phillips Interior/Exterior Systems. “On the days when the temperatures didn’t fall below freezing, our crews worked long hours. It required tenting and heating the exterior wall system area as well as the area housing the stucco pump to get the job done on time. Having used QUIKRETE stucco in the past, we were confident it would perform as needed, especially to move along the finishing process.”



Specified by H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture, the CI wall system consists of fiberglass mat gypsum wall sheathing, vapor permeable fluid-applied membrane weather barrier, rigid board insulation Extruded Polystyrene Foam (XPS) and metal lath covered with FRS. With nearly 15,000 square feet of FRS pumped from a staging area and applied at ¾” thick, any concerns about the weight of the system quickly disappeared.

“We haven’t done much with insulated stucco systems in the St. Louis market and the plasters had some concerns about the weight of the stucco over 3” XPS board,” said Rick Moore, product manager for exterior claddings with the stucco supplier, Negwer Materials, Inc. “Early on the plasters realized the CI system was working just as designed and were very impressed with the results. This was a high-profile project on a really demanding schedule in very tight quarters, so the advantage of using pre-mixed scratch and brown proved significant for completing the work on time.”

Moore also confirmed that Phillips Interior/Exterior Systems found pump applying the QUIKRETE FRS to work extremely well for the CI system application. As part of the process, the stucco was finished with a texture to complement the artistic circular vents on the exterior of the mechanical rooms. In addition to meeting required energy building codes, the CI wall system with stucco finish proved to be a resilient impact resistant alternative to an EIFS for renovating The Muny.

Tarlton Corp., a St. Louis-based general contracting and construction management firm, served as the construction manager for the stage and production improvements. “Tarlton has completed many projects over 20 years for The Muny, which gave us good familiarity with what they hold dear, and with the inner workings of this one-of-a-kind performance venue,” noted Cameron Denison, Tarlton senior project manager.

Offered Dennis Reagan, The Muny president and chief executive officer, “As we look toward the second century of The Muny, these improvements are designed to enhance the musical theater experience for St. Louisans and visitors and are vital to its future.”

Phillips agreed, “You take pride in working on a project that helps preserve the rich legacy of an institution like The Muny. It’s a historic cornerstone in St. Louis that dates back to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and I’m confident this latest transformation will allow future generation to enjoy it into the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century.”



QUIKRETE® One Coat Fiberglass Reinforced Stucco is a Portland cement-based plaster designed for use in one coat stucco applications over substrates of fiberboard, plywood, oriented strand board (OSB), gypsum sheathing or expanded polystyrene (EPS) insulation board on exterior walls of wood or steel stud construction. It may also be used as base coat in conventional two- or three-coat stucco systems.

QUIKRETE® commercial-grade stucco materials have been used on many high-profile, landmark building and refurbishing projects like SeaWorld® Pacific Point Preserve, Omni Nashville Hotel, The Broadmoor, U.S. Capitol and Statue of Liberty. More information on QUIKRETE® stucco products is available at [www.QUIKRETE.com](http://www.QUIKRETE.com).

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### ***The Muny***

The Muny's mission is to enrich lives by producing exceptional musical theatre, accessible to all, while continuing its remarkable tradition in Forest Park. As the nation's largest outdoor musical theatre, we produce seven world-class musicals each year and welcome over 400,000 theatregoers over our nine-week season. Celebrating 101 seasons in St. Louis, The Muny remains one of the premier institutions in musical theatre. For more information about The Muny, visit [www.muny.org](http://www.muny.org)

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