



Photography: © CJ Berg

ARCHITECT

AC Martin Partners, Inc.
Los Angeles, California

GLAZING CONTRACTOR

The Glass Shop, Inc.
Visalia, California

FEATURED PRODUCTS

1600 Wall System™1 Curtain Wall with custom covers
Trifab™ VG (Versa Glaze™) 451T Framing System
350 Medium Stile Entrances

California Court of Appeal Fifth Appellate District

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

California Court of Appeal Fifth Appellate District

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

PROJECT PROFILE
GOVERNMENT

KAWNEER PRODUCTS HELP ESTABLISH SUSTAINABILITY AND A SENSE OF BEAUTY IN THE CALIFORNIA COURTHOUSE

As a federal court, the California Court of Appeal Fifth Appellate District (Fifth District Court of Appeal) covers nine counties throughout central California and is often used as a site for the surrounding community to rally. Located in a part of Fresno that is being rejuvenated by the city, the Fifth District Court of Appeal building not only contributes to the American way of life, but to the revitalization of a community, bringing both sustainability and a sense of beauty.

In addition to needing a functional, secure building, the overall appearance of the court was important to the state. California-based architecture firm AC Martin Partners, Inc. was selected to develop the design of the court and was tasked with creating a building that would not only be efficient, but also would capture the vibrant, entrepreneurial spirit of the city. Visalia, California-based glass and window company, The Glass Shop, was selected to fabricate and glaze the court building, while products from Kawneer were selected to enhance the building's performance and provide superior aesthetics to the project.

DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS

With its curved walls, champagne-gold hue and glass façade, the Fifth District Court of Appeal has a tranquil appearance. Designed to reflect the dignity and transparency of the judicial system, the modern classic building combines traditional elements and modern materials. The courthouse includes a formal processional entry, a jewel-box courtroom and a horseshoe-shaped inner courtyard.

CHALLENGES

- The curved shape of the curtain wall and the integration of the inner courtyard were very distinct design components, and project managers were concerned that the shape of the walls and courtyard would lead to leaking.

- Obstacles arose regarding the break metal, which impacted how the curtain wall connected to the building. Additionally, because the courtyard was within the building, traditional equipment could not be used to hang or glaze the curtain wall.
- The building needed to be durable and lasting to fulfill its public need, but the city also wanted an aesthetically appealing design.
- The state was interested in integrating features into the building that could contribute to energy efficiency as well as to the health and well-being of the occupants.

SOLUTIONS

- Kawneer's versatile 1600 Wall System™1 Curtain Wall was selected for the building to address the concern of leaking. Enhanced for higher performance, 1600 Wall System™1 Curtain Wall has been tested for air performance, static water penetration and dynamic water penetration.
- To address the challenges with the break metal, Kawneer engineers worked closely with The Glass Shop to redesign the clips on top of the curtain wall and to file state-required documentation. Kawneer also provided assistance with the clip design as the curtain wall was hung and glazed in the inner courtyard, which was done by hand and required three stories of scaffolding.
- Kawneer's 350 Medium Stile Entrances were selected for the lasting quality and durability they provide. Tough yet attractive, 350 Medium Stile Entrances are designed to complement modern or traditional architecture – perfect to meet the design requirements of the Fifth District Court of Appeal.
- Features like the thermal break in Trifab™ VersaGlaze™ 451T Framing System help reduce energy usage and increase thermal efficiency. Additionally, 1600 Wall System™1 Curtain Wall outfitted with custom covers was used to create the glass façade of the building's exterior. Both the glass facade and the inner courtyard provide occupants with increased natural daylight.

