KALWALL®

high performance translucent building systems

Project Report

Elgin Artspace Lofts

Chicago, Illinois

Photography: Kate Joyce
Architecture: BKV Group

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Wall Systems | Skyroof™ + Skylight Systems | Canopies + Walkways | Hurricane-Rated E-Series™ Windows

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KALWALL SPECIFICATION:

Panel: 2.75˝ | 70 mm

Grid core: 12˝ x 24˝ | 300 mm x 600 mm

Exterior FRP: .070 White

Interior FRP: .045 White

System finish: White #00

U-Value: .10 TB | .57 Wm²K

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient: .11

Visible Light Transmission: 5%

WHAT IS KALWALL?

A translucent, structural sandwich panel that provides:

Glare-free, balanced daylighting

Superior thermal performance

Energy + electricity saving

Low maintenance life cycle requirements

Safety + security through visual privacy

Durability + graffiti / vandal-resistance

Hurricane, explosion venting + blast rated options

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For unparalleled thermal performance in translucent daylighting, consider specifying Kalwall with **CABOT's Lumira®** aerogel insulation. Available in 2.75" (70 mm) panel formats up to: 4' x 12' (1200 mm x 3600 mm) and 5' x 10' (1500 mm x 3000 mm) maximum.

Elgin Artspace Lofts, Chicago, Illinois

BRINGING THE ARTS TO LIFE

The award-winning Elgin Artspace Lofts, which opened in 2012, transformed a 1908 Sears building into a hub for artists to affordably live and pursue their craft. Kalwall® shines a light on their collective works.

Kalwall translucent sandwich panels were retrofitted into an original skylight, bathing the main floor's artist gallery in museum-quality daylighting™.

The City of Elgin partnered with Artspace, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit that develops mixed-use buildings to promote the arts. There are 32 Artspace projects nationally; this is the third in the Chicago metropolitan area.

The architect was BKV Group, which has offices in Chicago, Minneapolis and Washington, D.C., and has experience with similar projects.

Together, they created a community space for artists and small businesses. Part of the Artspace mission is to provide artists with accessible and affordable housing.

The $15.2 million project integrates the historic building with a new three-story addition. Combined, there are 55 live/work units and 5,874 square feet of retail and community space for art-friendly businesses and nonprofit organizations.

The living units are on the second floor and the gallery is on the main floor of the two-story original building. The Kalwall skylight floods the space with diffuse natural daylight to showcase the art on display. By providing balanced, glare-free, and museum-quality daylighting, the Kalwall panels draw out the bold colors of each piece.

"The original skylight was an ideal way to introduce diffuse natural daylight into the setting, and Kalwall panels were a great retrofit solution," says BKV's Craig Carter, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Senior Project Architect. "There is a soft, translucent quality that perfectly complements the art gallery."

Kalwall panels also provide exceptional thermal performance and low solar heat gain, which fits into the project's goal to be certified by Enterprise Green Communities.

Elgin has been working to preserve and enhance its downtown area, paying particular attention to the arts. The Eglin Artspace Lofts brings the city, which is just northwest of Chicago, one step closer to reaching this goal.

"The City of Elgin is really committed to bringing a vibrancy to downtown through the arts and introducing more residential housing into the area. Elgin Artspace Lofts was a great project that accomplished both goals," Carter says. "By giving artists an affordable place where they can live, as well as a great space to show their works, you create a culture center. This project combined old and new to make something unique."

Awards:

2014 AIA Chicago Design Excellence Award

2014 Multi-Housing News Excellence Award (Gold):
Best New Development-Affordable

2014 Congress for New Urbanism-Illinois Charter Award:
Best Block, Street and Building