

How Climate-Shield Became the Most Respected Wood Rain Screen System

The Climate-Shield® Rain Screen System was officially released in 2011 and quickly became the most widely specified wood rain screen system in North America. How? Climate-Shield created a new design that eliminated the drawbacks of existing wood rain screen clips that required wood furring strips. And that was just the beginning. Since then, Climate-Shield has developed an entire product line for specialty wood siding design and construction. The patented Climate-Shield rain screen system represents a paradigm shift for sustainable design of exterior facades.

What do architects have to say about the Climate-Shield rain screen system?

Private Residence, Cambridge, MA

Architect Makoto Abe of [Anmahian Winton Architects](#) was considering using the Climate-Shield system for a project. He held up a Climate-Shield rain screen clip and stated, “This is elegantly simple.” As project architect for a spectacular residence in Cambridge, MA, Makoto went on to specify and use the Climate-Shield rain screen system and the new home earned numerous awards for design excellence.



Sandy Hook School, Newtown, CT

The design team at [Svigals + Partners](#) used a collaborative approach when designing the new Sandy Hook School in Connecticut. The Climate-Shield rain screen system was incorporated into the building’s façade. In an article in [Metropolis Magazine](#), one of the lead architects at Svigals, Julia McFadden, AIA stated:

“Wood and stone façade – the wavy shape of the front wall of the school appeals to the abstracted memory of the town’s identity as it sits in the undulating hills of the area. The warm wood is a beautiful welcoming material, and the stone base evokes the typical New England stone foundations in the area.”



Many other architects and designers have shared that the Climate-Shield system allows them to use real wood to create a warm and natural appearance for their facade. Other design professionals have shared that they love to use the wood siding as an accent, combined with other cladding elements on their facades. [Swatt Miers](#), a respected firm in the Bay Area of California, is a great example of a design team that has used the Climate-Shield system in a mixed palette of various textures including stone, wood and stucco on several of their signature residential project designs.



What do builders have to say about the Climate-Shield rain screen system?

Many of the construction professionals we have worked with have a similar reaction after completing their first installation – they are surprised how quickly and effectively the rain screen siding system was to install.

Greg Severn, a project manager at [Integrated Interiors Incorporated](#) in Fort Worth, Texas, had this to say after completing a large Climate-Shield rain screen system installation, “I can’t believe how fast this went up. We started at noon on Monday and were finished Tuesday afternoon.”



[Ultimate Construction LLC](#), of Hartford, CT is an exterior cladding specialist and they are in the process of completing the entire façade for the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven. Company principal Adam Tokarzewski of Ultimate Construction told us that the wood siding installation went a lot faster than planned and that he liked the system a lot. Ultimate Construction plans to use the Climate-Shield wood rain screen system on another rain screen project design on the Connecticut coast soon.

Other contractors have told us that they appreciate that Climate-Shield offers a “total package”. We have also been told, “Wow. You really have thought of everything. Other products we have looked at only offer a clip - and that’s about it. This really is a complete system.”



What Does Climate-Shield Have to Say?

Architectural acceptance is off-the charts for both residential and commercial project designs:

Over the past six years especially, we have seen wood rain screens gain rapid acceptance in the design community. Most architects and design professionals were unaware of the benefits of a well-designed wood rain screen including sustainability, durability and performance. Most of the earlier rain screen products provided only a wood furring strip and a clip. Climate-Shield offers a comprehensive assortment of components for all types of designs that work together effectively as a complete rain screen system.

Many designers love the warm look of real wood in their designs but were unable to find a suitable fastening system to meet sustainable design requirements or their project needs. Climate-Shield can be installed, horizontally, vertically or diagonally to resolve design challenges in a construction friendly manner.



Complete Wood Rain Screen System with components that meet specific project needs:

Climate-Shield's patented rain screen system continues to evolve to meet the needs of both the design and construction communities. The Climate-Shield rain screen clip itself is a marvel – it eliminates the need for wood furring strips and creates a pressure-equalized rain screen that outperforms other wood rain screen fastening options. The Climate-Shield CSSR8 Starter Rail is an innovative component that allows contractors to quickly and easily provide a level base elevation. This not only speeds up construction, it ensures a better look for the entire façade.

For commercial rain screen projects being installed over [masonry](#), [exterior drywall](#) or [rigid foam insulation](#) (up to 1-1/2" thick), Climate-Shield developed their CSAC8 Attachment Channel. This innovative fastening structure provides a highly durable marine grade aluminum fastening point to attach the rain screen system.

The Climate-Shield CSZG8 [marine grade aluminum Z-girt](#) is another example of a project specific solution for projects using exterior insulation. With so many sustainable designs requiring the right balance of energy savings, healthy environments and low life-cycle costs, the Climate-Shield z-girt is a great option for projects of this nature.



Savvy contractors are getting in on the action, too:

Because so many architects are specifying this unique rain screen system, more and more contractors have already had the opportunity to work with it. Many construction professionals have learned firsthand, how user-friendly the Climate-Shield system is to install and they are proud of their workmanship in creating a beautiful and highly functional rain screen system.

The risky nature of the construction industry is no secret. Construction companies have one of the highest failure rates of any business. So most savvy contractors are reluctant to try any new products. However, the Climate-Shield system continues to turn many doubters into believers. Numerous contractors have asked us to let them know whenever there are Climate-Shield projects in their area, because they would like to work with it again.

In fact, over the past two years, we have noticed that many contractors are now specifying the Climate-Shield rain screen system for their own projects. Although most wood rain screen designs are still architecturally specified, we are seeing more contractors 'taking the bull by the horns' and using Climate-Shield on their own, particularly for residential projects. We take this trend as a vote of confidence for the Climate-Shield system, and a specialty product for contractors to help them develop their own market niche with a high-end cladding solution.



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