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Iconic PNC Bank Green Living Wall Standing the Test of Time



PNC BANK September 2009



PNC BANK September 2012

Rochester, NY- PNC Bank (Pittsburgh), one of the most noted green living wall projects to date. The wall was installed in September of 2009; there was speculation on the longevity of green walls in general, the project now entering the fourth year has performed as predicted with small changes to certain plant choices.

The installation was an undertaking that included the work of Philly Green Wall (www.phillygreenwall.com) and MNB Constructs (www.gspacedesign.com), GLTi partners and licensed architects. There were many unknowns during the removal of the granite façade; the cinder block wall had to be backfilled with concrete to insure the wall could sustain the 20 ton load, an inch and a half of plywood covered by Coal Tar Elastomeric Membrane (CTEM) by marketing partner Hyload, protects the mounting surface, trim was custom designed specifically to accommodate the irrigation lines.

The first obstacle we had to overcome was time, the pressure was on us to install the wall in time for the G-20 Summit, with only 3 months to organize the event it was to the efforts of our partners G-Space Design and Philly Green Wall to engineer, plan and implement. It is a credit to our capability to accomplish large projects in a timely manner. The real disappointment came when the contract grower made a major error when planting the wall, costing time and materials to make it right.

Over the last three years much has been learned about the wall and the performance of the plant choices. Although PNC had a simple irrigation system the patented GLTi Green Living Walls provide an optional monitoring system to better control the biology at the root level. We can fertilize, add bioSoil and even reduce the water use per season right from our home office. Sensors will tell us exactly what to do to maximize performance and increase the health of the plants.



G-20 Summit 2009

With other large projects, such as the Intercontinental Hotel in Santiago Chile, a towering 17 stories and 17,000 square feet, the PNC Bank wall was a foundation to larger and more elaborate plant pallet. With the introduction of our advanced monitoring system the plant replacements in these types of projects can be minimized, however nothing can replace a trained maintenance technician.

According to GLTi founder George Irwin, “We are grateful for the learning experiences projects like this have provided us. GLTi has paved the way for a much more advanced system and by sharing our information others have been able to use our information with success. We look forward to demonstrating the construction process of this project in detail at Cities Alive in Chicago October 17-20, 2012 as we introduce the most advanced green living wall system to date, the g-2 Patented Green Living Wall”



Left to Right: Winter, Maintenance, 2009 installation

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