

CASE STUDY

CENTER OF DEVELOPING ENTREPRENEURS CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA





The award-winning Center of Developing Entrepreneurs (CODE) is a pioneering retail and commercial office development located on historical Main Street in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Its contemporary architectural design provides flexible retail space and an innovative, collaborative work environment that offers the city a new place for entrepreneurs and business professionals to prosper while promoting sustainability, community and well-being.

The primary goals of the mixed-use development were to enhance the well-being of building occupants and to reduce contributions to climate change through the use of sustainable building materials. Featuring a range of Kawneer's high-performing architectural aluminum systems as well as expansive green spaces, the building achieved the highly coveted LEED Platinum®

Architects: Wolf Ackerman, Charlottesville, VA, and Eskew Dumez Ripple, New Orleans, LA

Glazing Contractor: Rochester Insulated Glass, Manchester, NY, and Glass and Metals Inc., Harrisonburg, VA

General Contractor: Hourigan, Richmond, VA

Photography: © Alan Karchmer



INNOVATING SUSTAINABLE OFFICE DESIGN

The 215,000-square-foot building's modern design was inspired by the brick cladding of the surrounding historic buildings as well as the city's desire for connection and walkability. CODE combines Charlottesville's liveliness and the walkability of a major city with the affordability and connection to nature, like that of a small town, while offering a space for local entrepreneurs to thrive and give back to the Charlottesville community.

The building's facade features a range of Kawneer curtain wall and storefront systems that provide increased thermal performance and allow natural light into the building while offering unique views of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. Kawneer's 1600 Wall System[®]1, System[®]2 and 1620 Curtain Wall Systems, complemented by Trifab[®] VersaGlaze[®] 450 and 601T Framing Systems, help improve occupant productivity and well-being through creating open office spaces overlooking the surrounding landscape. Additionally, Kawneer's 350T Insulpour[®] Thermal Entrances were installed on the ground level, providing a glimpse into the building's interior from the outside.

The desirability and practicality of CODE represents a new vision for startup workspaces. The center has become a vivacious, energy-filled place bustling with activity. Occupants enjoy the open-concept coworking space that allows them to easily share thoughts and brainstorm innovative ideas.

The building's incorporation of Kawneer's high-performing architectural aluminum systems allowed it to achieve LEED Platinum[®] certification. Kawneer's innovative technology helps increase fresh air exchange, natural ventilation and allow abundant daylight throughout the building. Further, the center has been designed to harvest and reuse rainwater for green roof irrigation.

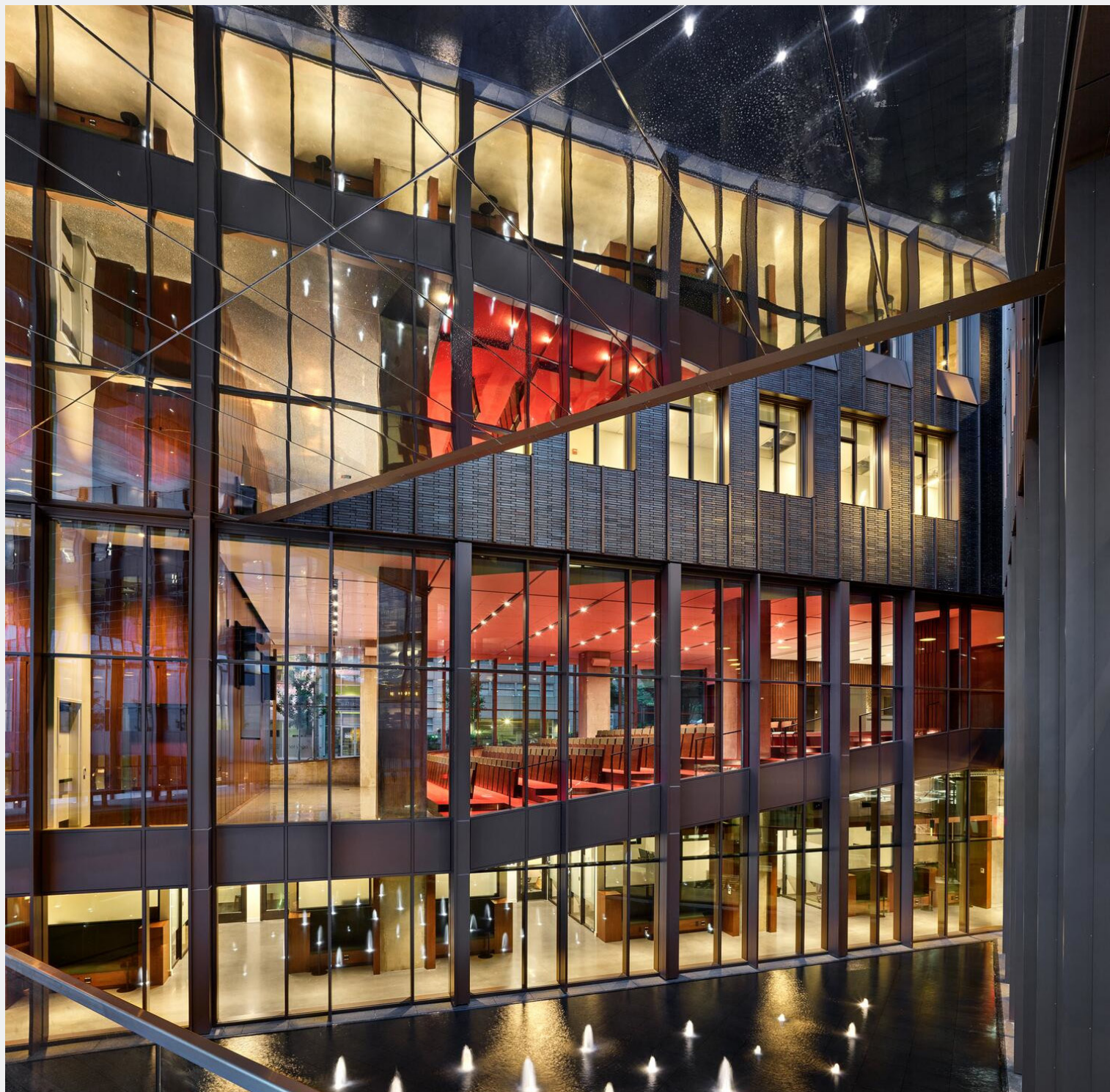
In addition to achieving LEED Platinum[®], CODE was named the winner of the Design and Construction Award and voted as People's Choice of the Year for the 2023 USGBC Virginia Community Leadership Awards. The building is designed to meet the AIA's 2030 challenge for efficiency and thermal performance.

CHALLENGES

- The architects' desire for the project was to build using sustainable materials and architectural aluminum systems that provide high thermal performance and allow for natural ventilation and abundant daylighting.
- Designing a dynamic, collaborative work environment was essential for connecting employees and the local Charlottesville community.
- High-performing architectural aluminum systems were necessary to help optimize energy efficiency and reduce operating expenses for the building.

SOLUTIONS

- Kawneer's ultra-thermal products help maintain an ideal interior temperature and reduce background noise from street traffic or from other rooms and office spaces.
- The incorporation of high-performing, energy-efficient architectural aluminum systems help support the goals of the sustainable building design, allowing the building to achieve LEED Platinum® certification.
- The combination of Kawneer curtain wall, storefront framing systems and thermal entrances help enhance occupant productivity and well-being through providing light-filled, open office spaces and panoramic views.





PRODUCTS USED

- 1600 Wall System®1 Curtain Wall
- 1600 Wall System®2 Curtain Wall
- 1620 Curtain Wall System
- 350T Insulpour® Thermal Entrances
- GLASSvent® Windows for Storefront Framing
- Trifab® VersaGlaze® 450 Framing System
- Trifab® VersaGlaze® 601T Framing System