SIKA AT WORK
BANKERS LIFE FIELDHOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

ADHERED ROOF USING 60 MIL Sarnafil® G 410 MEMBRANE
IN LIGHT GRAY AND LEAD GRAY

Sarnafil®

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MIDLAND AND SIKA ROOFING TEAM UP ON BANKERS LIFE FIELDHOUSE ROOF

The wettest May in a decade, unscheduled practices for an NBA team in the playoffs and a celebrity rapper making the roof shake during his sound check were just some of the challenges Midland Engineering Company, Inc., of South Bend, Indiana, faced when installing a new roof on Bankers Life Fieldhouse. That's not including the barrel shaped roof, multiple slopes of 3/12, 5/12, and 9/12, and a location smack in the middle of downtown Indianapolis. Fortunately, due to great teamwork between the owner, architect, construction manager and Sika Roofing, the project was completed on time and without incident.

A ROOF WITH A TRACK RECORD

The arena is home to the NBA's Indiana Pacers, the WNBA's Indiana Fever and host to many other events. So when its roof started failing, ownership wanted to find a roofing system that was dependable and could be installed without interrupting the facility's operations and activities. Architect Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) of Indianapolis specified the Sarnafil Adhered System.

"We like the Sarnafil membrane because of its track record with quality and performance over the decades," said Logan Cook, associate III at WJE. "We also appreciate Sika Roofing's responsiveness and technical support."

"We've been working with Sika Roofing for 45 years, and have a very strong relationship with them," remarked Ken Sage, vice president, business development at Midland. "The Sarnafil system is a high quality product and fits with our thinking."

"LIKE FIXING AN AIRPLANE WHILE IT'S FLYING"

The roofing project called for removing the existing roofing down to the deck, which included taking off two mechanically attached roofing membranes (one PVC and one EPDM), 1.5-inch polyisocyanurate and a gypsum cover board. Midland then installed a gypsum thermal barrier, Vapor Retarder SA 31, two layers of 2-inch polyisocyanurate, a gypsum cover board and then adhered the Sarnafil membrane. All of this was done on a very busy arena in the middle of the city.

"We are in the middle of downtown and have basketball games, concerts, circuses and other events going on all the time," said Tom Boyle, director of operations for the Capital Improvement Board of Managers of Marion County. "Working on the roof was like fixing an airplane while it's flying!"

"The Pacers were in the playoffs, so we suddenly had to deal with their unscheduled practices," stated Chris Garber, project manager at Midland. "Sometimes we would start roofing and then get a call that we were making too much noise and had to shut down. Another time, Kanye West was doing a sound check and the roof started shaking while we were working on it."

SAFETY, SECURITY AND SCAFFOLDING

Safety – of both the roofers and the building's patrons – was another concern. "Workers on the 5/12 and 9/12 slopes were always tied off, and we had a full-time safety officer who did weekly safety audits of the project," Garber explained. Despite 50 workers putting in more than 25,000 man hours on the project, not a single injury occurred.

Scaffolding was designed to move both the crew and materials, with additional scaffolding installed above sidewalks when the crew was working on the roof perimeter. "We had to make sure the scaffolding was maintained and secured from the general public," Garber continued. "We also hired security to watch the scaffolding during arena events."

PROJECT
Bankers Life Fieldhouse
Indianapolis, Indiana

OWNER
Capital Improvement Board of Managers of Marion County, Indiana

ROOFING CONTRACTOR
Midland Engineering Company, Inc.
South Bend, Indiana

ARCHITECT
Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.
Indianapolis, Indiana

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER
AECOM Hunt
Indianapolis, Indiana

ROOFING SYSTEM
Adhered Roof using 60 mil Sarnafil G 410 membrane in Light Gray and Lead Gray

PROJECT SIZE
153,900 square feet

COMPLETED
December 2016

COPING WITH COPINGS AND RAINY WEATHER

Wind, frost and rain caused additional headaches. "It was the wettest May in about 10 years, so it was a huge challenge for us," Garber said.

"There were a lot of rain dates, but Midland did a great job keeping the roof dry," Cook added.

"Another instance when Midland did a good job stepping up was with the unique sheet metal copings," Cook stated. "The copings appear repetitive, but they really vary dramatically along the length of the parapet. Midland collaborated with the team to devise a plan for the fabrication and installation of this challenging aspect of the project."

Midland's solution was to custom fabricate copings on site with metal provided by Sika. The project had 1,500 linear feet of coping and 870 linear feet of Sarnaclad gutter liner, which Midland conformed to a saddle. "Every piece of metal we installed on this project was custom made," Garber commented. "Our sheet metal shop was able to field verify, fabricate and install certain portions of the roof within 24 hours. I'm not sure there is another sheet metal shop that can do that."

After installing the membrane, Midland installed the Bankers Life logo on the roof in Evergreen-colored membrane. "Even though we have a lot of experience with logos, it really is an art to get them cut and laid out properly," Garber explained.

Other challenges included staging in a constricted area, and the discovery of corrosion on the steel framing of the battens. "Midland did a very good job, and Chris Garber did a great job managing the project," remarked Chris Schoettle, project manager for AECOM Hunt of Indianapolis, the construction manager on the project. "They had a lot of challenges, but at the end of the day they adapted and got it done on time."

It was this professionalism and creativity that earned Midland second place in the Steep Slope Category of Sika Roofing's 2016 Project of the Year competition.

Cook added that Sika also contributed to the success of the project. "During the project, Sika representatives were actively involved and available to answer questions regarding detailing and unique conditions, which was very valuable to the team. "

WINNING WITH TEAMWORK

It was this teamwork, creative problem solving and professionalism that allowed Midland, AECOM Hunt, WJE and Sika Roofing to deliver a roof that looks aesthetically pleasing and offers long-term durability and performance.

"This project was a highlight for WJE," Cook remarked. Schoettle said, "The roof is doing well and I would definitely use the Sarnafil system again."

Boyle added, "The roof looks great and we've had many compliments on how it looks. It really pops up against the Indianapolis skyline."

Sounds like another victory at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

BANKERS LIFE FIELDHOUSE

WHO WE ARE

The commercial roofing industry has relied on thermoplastic single-ply membranes from Sika for more than 50 years to achieve sustainable roofing and waterproofing solutions.

Sika is a globally active specialty chemicals company. Sika supplies the building and construction industry as well as manufacturing industries (automotive, bus, truck, rail, solar and wind power plants, facades). Sika is a leader in processing materials used in sealing, bonding, damping, reinforcing and protecting load-bearing structures. Sika's product lines feature high-quality concrete admixtures, specialty mortars, sealants and adhesives, damping and reinforcing materials, structural strengthening systems, industrial flooring as well as roofing and waterproofing systems.

Our most current General Sales Conditions shall apply.
Please consult the Product Data Sheet prior to any use and processing.
ISO 14001: 2004-Compliant

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LEED® is a trademark of the U.S. Green Building Council.
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