

Connecting visitors to the outdoors and protecting artwork at the Helmerich Center for American Research



Improves visitor comfort by blocking heat and glare, prolonging visits

Preserves artwork - 99.6% of UV rays blocked

Maintains full views of scenic countryside - no blinds or shades

University of Tulsa
Helmerich Center for American Research
Architects: Hastings + Chivetta
General contractor: Key Construction
Glazier: Apax Glass

Helmerich Center for American Research, Tulsa, OK

The mission of the Helmerich Center for American Research is to preserve and promote the art, history, and culture of the Americas. View Dynamic Glass allows visitors to experience history while connecting them to the very landscape from which a part of that history originated, all while protecting priceless museum artifacts from sun damage.

Objectives The new 25,000 square foot addition is part of Tulsa's Gilcrease Museum, which houses the most comprehensive collection of art and artifacts of the American West. It is one of the country's leading facilities involved in the preservation of American art and history and plays host to visiting faculty and students from around the world to promote scholarly research. Its gathering spaces provide opportunities for seminars, lectures and exhibitions.

The museum envisioned a space that would offer unobstructed views of the outside and allow ample natural daylight to give the center an airy, open feel. The challenge was to create a picture-perfect transition between the outdoors and the interior, without promoting heat, glare and harmful UV rays that can damage the invaluable historical artifacts on display.

Solution View Dynamic Glass encloses the north, east and west facades of the facility and automatically adjusts window tint based on sun exposure. Without Dynamic Glass, the museum would have needed to install internal roller shades, which would have blocked the inspirational views and created a completely different visitor experience than envisioned by the architect and the museum.

Team

Architect:
Hastings + Chivetta

General contractor:
Key Construction

Glazier:
Apax Glass

Glazing system

Project type:
New installation

Type:
Curtain wall, storefront

Make and model:
Kawneer 1600 Wall System
and Kawneer Trifab 451T

IGU makeup

Overall thickness:
1"

Outboard lite:
6mm tempered clear with EC
on surface #2

Spacer:
½" black warm edge spacer

Inboard lite:
6mm tempered clear



Outcome With View Dynamic Glass installed, the Helmerich Center maintains a connection with the outdoors and creates a bright and welcoming environment—all while reducing solar heat and glare. The superior UV properties of the Dynamic Glass block 97–99 percent of UV radiation, helping to shield the facility's artifacts and furnishings from damage and fading.

Payoffs

- Improves ambience and increases natural light
- Eliminates glare without sacrificing views
- Protects artifacts and furnishings