

For Immediate Release

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Cambridge Architectural Mesh System Offers Solution for Hospital Parking Garage Design

CAMBRIDGE, MD...Cambridge Architectural, America's leading manufacturer of architectural mesh systems, recently constructed a unique Façade mesh system for a new six-level parking garage structure, part of a \$170 million expansion of Community Hospital North, Indianapolis, IN. The mesh system achieves beauty, function and economy – a perfect solution for the project's design requirements.

"Located at the entrance to the hospital, and visible from the interstate, the parking garage design required a unique, aesthetically attractive exterior building material," explains Mark Hayden, project manager, Community Health Network, building owner. "But we needed a product that would also offer ventilation, fall protection and security. Cambridge Architectural's mesh system exceeded our requirements and our expectations."

"Cambridge Architectural Façade systems provide solutions for aesthetic and functional design obstacles such as these," says Kevin Mayer, director of business development and marketing for Cambridge Architectural. "Our mesh system met all of the project's requirements and provides a new dimension as a functional design element."

Over 40,000 square feet of metal fabric in Cambridge's Scale pattern, supported by Eclipse attachment hardware created the Façade mesh system, consisting of 60-ft. tall by 15-ft. wide panels, which visually differentiate the building exterior.

"Parking ramps and openings are virtually disguised, creating an interesting form of glimmering mesh," describes Jim Johnson, project manager, RTKL architectural firm, Dallas, TX. "At night, the structure's exterior lighting illuminates the mesh. During the day, the metal fabric allows sunlight to pass into the parking garage, while creating varying shades of shimmer on the material."

The metal fabric pattern meets ventilation requirements for parking garages, allowing proper airflow and significantly reducing the need for costly exhaust systems. The metal fabric also meets fall protection requirements and, when used with crash barriers, eliminates the added cost of handrails. The attachment hardware was designed to keep an aesthetic focus on the metal fabric and requires far fewer structurally embedded supports than heavier, panelized alternatives.

"Cambridge's system was cost-effective because the mesh provided a human fall-restraint, eliminating the need for extra handrails," comments Blake Hodge, principal, Carl Walker Inc. parking consultants, Dallas, TX. "The open area of the mesh met the requirements to classify the garage as open – allowing us to use a less costly fire suppression system than one required for an enclosed garage."

"Compared to other mesh manufacturers, Cambridge was more economical and offered the design aesthetics and technical solutions we were looking for," adds Johnson. "The mesh creates visual interest and emphasizes our vision of turning a parking garage into sculptural architecture."

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"This intricately woven metal is becoming a hot trend in the architectural community because of its aesthetic beauty and the limitless functional characteristics it presents, continues Mayer. "The ease of combining aesthetics and functionality make architectural mesh systems uniquely attractive to architects and designers."

"Across the country I've noticed mesh becoming part of an architectural movement in garage design," continues Hodge. "And working with Cambridge offered many benefits. They simply didn't sell us the mesh – they offered a complete engineered system."

The complete 850,000 square foot expansion will effectively double the size of the hospital campus and will include a six-story patient tower, a five-story professional office building and the six-level parking structure. The project also includes expanding and renovating 140,000 square feet of the existing hospital. This significant expansion will transform a community hospital into a full service urban medical complex.

Construction of the complex began in November 2004 and is scheduled for completion in early 2007. The parking garage portion of construction is complete and will be operational before the end of 2006. A pedestrian walkway will also connect the garage to the hospital.

The project team includes architectural firm RTKL, Dallas, TX, MEP engineering firm BSA LifeStructures, general contractor Summit Construction, mesh installer ProCLAD, all from Indianapolis, IN, and parking consultant/structural engineer/production architect Carl Walker Inc., Dallas, TX. The building owner is Community Health Network.

“We specialize in the installation of metal exteriors for commercial and industrial facilities,” explains Steve Miller, project manager, ProCLAD installers, Indianapolis, IN. “This project posed several challenges that we were able to overcome with on-site assistance from Cambridge and with our team approach. We worked through the minor challenges and the result is a functional and beautiful metal exterior.”

Cambridge maintains a fully-staffed engineering department to assist with installation details, framing design, and load characteristics, and is also available for on-site installation supervision.

Cambridge’s Scale metal fabric pattern features large-scaled, flexible open weaves that shade and screen structures including facades, parking garages and pavilions. Eclipse tension attachment hardware was used to install the Scale product. Tailored edges are provided for expanses of flexible metal fabric in tension. Elegant, custom cut apertures receive the metal fabric ends in tubing that is integrated into a bracket and structural support design. Tube sizes may vary to emphasize or de-emphasize the attachment.

Cambridge Architectural is the leading American manufacturer of architectural mesh systems. The elements of a Cambridge system include the attachment hardware and the metal fabric. Systems include Façade, Space Sculpting, Corporate Branding, Security and Safety, Solar, Ventilation, and Landscape Interiors. For more information about Cambridge Architectural call 1-866-806-2385 or visit www.cambridgearchitectural.com.

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