

APPLICATION OF NEG ARG FIBRE

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NEG ARG Fibre, manufactured by Nippon Electric Glass Co., Ltd., is used throughout the world as a reinforcement for cement composites, including asbestos replacement products.

Restoration of Old Hotel in San Francisco



GFRC has found extensive acceptance in the area of architectural restoration. The ability to mold intricate details in GFRC, makes it very suitable for reproducing terra-cotta and cut stone architectural features on old and historic buildings. The thin sections and relative light weight of the GFRC units, usually avoids any necessity for modifications in the building structure, in that, the weight of the GFRC unit is usually comparable to or less than the originally used material. It does not present therefore, any extra burden on the original structure.

The versatility of finish available with GFRC makes it possible also to reproduce the finish of the original material as well as the shapes and surface details.

The restoration of the old Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco is an excellent example of the use of GFRC in this field. The hotel, originally built in 1903, required restoration of the roof line terra-cotta castings. Remaking or strengthening and repairing the terra-cotta pieces and the support structure would have been extremely expensive. Replacing with GFRC proved to be a much more cost effective alternative. The project involved 784 units each, eight feet tall, totalling some 37,000 sq. ft. Rubber molds were cast from original terra-cotta pieces. The GFRC units were manufactured with a smooth natural finish and integral pigmented color to match the original terra-cotta. The original support structure had

deteriorated to such an extent that it had to be replaced. The new GFRC units were attached to a new support structure by means of imbeds cast in the back of the GFRC units.

Fairmont Hotel

Location: San Francisco, California
Architect: Mirio Galdano Architects
GFRC Manufacturer: Lafayette Manufacturing,
Company, Hayward,
California

Date Completed: July, 1984



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