

Steel Has It All Wrapped Up at the Northeastern University EXP Building in Boston

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The EXP Building at Northeastern University, Boston, Mass., USA, is wrapped in a dramatic stainless steel facade that isn't just for looks.

Boston's Northeastern University briefed local architect studio, Payette, to design and build an expressive structure that would form part of its new modern flexible research space. Situated on a former brownfield site, the building also had to contribute to the area's increasingly vibrant urban landscape.

The result is the striking EXP Building. Completed in 2023, the team at Payette designed it to enable a diverse network of innovators to connect and collaborate, and it works brilliantly from the inside out. Its organic pinwheel design includes research and classroom "neighborhoods" with each area defined by shared community spaces that radiate out from the core.

The stainless steel facade creates a solar veil

The eight-story, 357,000-sq.-ft. building is topped with a planted public rooftop sky garden that provides fantastic views of downtown Boston. And, not only is it great to look out from, the EXP Building is equally impressive to look toward. Its curved facade is covered with rows of horizontally tapered, stainless-steel bands that dramatically reflect light and color. These also serve to shade and cool the interior of the building by creating what's been called a "solar veil" and this significantly reduces the building's energy consumption. The use of stainless steel also reportedly led to an embodied carbon reduction

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ASSOCIATION

The World Steel Association (worldsteel), headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, is one of the largest industry associations in the world, with members in every major steel-producing country. Its members represent around 85% of global steel production.

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of almost 1 million metric tons, when compared to the alternative aluminum option.

Stainless steel is particularly well-suited to building facades because it has a high load-bearing capacity, it has a strength-to-weight ratio that enables it to be used in large spans, and it can be easily molded and curved into unusual shapes for added interest. Plus, should a building

built with stainless steel ever reach the end of its use and need to be knocked down in the future, its stainless steel components can be easily recycled and reused.

Expect to be wowed by more stainless-steel facades as the material is increasingly used to front buildings across the world. ◆

Did You Know?

British Ministers: Steel Industry Essential to National Security, Move to Nationalize British Steel

British Ministers paved the way to nationalize British Steel in March when it initiated efforts to establish the steel industry as essential to national security; alternatively, it could set the company's owner, Jingye, a deadline for a deal to close, reported the *Guardian*.

"Maintaining domestic production capability for British Steel's products is essential not only for economic growth but also for our national security and resilience. This will hopefully mark the beginning of a clear and credible long-term plan for British Steel," said Gareth Stace, the director general of the trade body UK Steel.

Officials want to resolve the ownership issue since they cannot sell the company to another private investor until it is taken care of. British Steel has several potential buyers already interested, reported the *Guardian*.