



Timeline Photography

TOWER OF CHANGE

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News from the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center Project

Finishing Touches

Work inside the Juvenile Justice Center continues at a steady pace as trades people begin tackling the all-important finishing touches. These include the magnificent dome on top of the building and installing drywall to create all the rooms.

In this issue, we highlight the creation of the dome and the installation and finishing of the huge amount of drywall sheets that are being put into place. You'll also learn about the demands of the drywall installation and finishing profession as many share what their trade is all about.

Drywalling Profession Calls for Smooth Operators

If you have a sharp eye, can do basic math, have physical strength, good dexterity and balance and want a good paycheck, you may want to consider becoming a drywall installer or finisher. These workers create interior walls and ceilings, and spend most of their time working inside, either in new buildings or renovating and repairing older ones.

Drywall installers are responsible for measuring pieces of drywall to fit exactly into the spaces and cutting and inserting each piece. They must then fasten the pieces to the wall or ceiling frame using glue, nails or screws. Installers also have to cut holes in the drywall, so it doesn't cover electrical outlets or ducts.

Drywall finishers tape the joints between pieces of drywall, so nothing shows after the wall or ceiling is painted. Finishers must fill in any holes or cracks for smooth surfaces. Finally, they cover the tape or filling material with a plaster-like compound to make sure the wall is perfectly smooth, sanding where they used compound.

These are demanding jobs that require standing, bending and kneeling while working with big, heavy sheets of drywall or with messy plaster. The large drywall panels are difficult to handle and frequently require more than one person to maneuver them into position.

Safety is an important aspect. To work high up on walls or on ceilings, workers must stand on ladders, stilts, or scaffolding. Another possible hazard is injury from power tools such as saws and nailers. Also, because sanding creates a lot of dust, workers wear protective safety glasses and masks.

Despite the demands of this career, there's a lot of satisfaction when the job is completed, and a room with smooth walls is ready to paint.

Meet Shawn Williams

Fifteen years ago, Shawn Williams was in search of employment, so he answered an ad in the newspaper. "No experience necessary" caught his attention.

That led to his first job working on a hotel on Route 8. His on-the-job training and willingness to follow directions led to a four-year apprenticeship. Williams is now a journeyman drywall finisher and a member of local 505.

Daily Duties: We're the ones that take care of the walls. The drywall hangers hang the walls then the project goes to the finishers. We put the mud on the walls, then smooth them out to get them ready for painting.

What He Likes About His Job: The pay is good. I remember when I was a kid, working with my uncle during summer breaks. Even then, I was earning a few bucks.

Biggest Challenge at the JJC Project: There is not much of a challenge working on this project. I stay busy, so the day goes by smoother and faster.

His Thoughts on the JJC Project: It's nice being on a big job like this. It's a nice looking building. Every time I ride past I can say, 'Hey, I was on that job.' It is one of the biggest projects I've worked on.

When He's Not Working: I enjoy bike riding, exercising, playing basketball and rooting for the Cavs. I also spend a lot of time with my nephews who are ages 10 and 7. They keep me busy. They have a lot of energy. We're always doing something.

Best Advice He Has Received: Keep your head up and stay positive.

His Best Advice: I tell my nephews to pay attention in school and that school is good for them.



Shawn Williams

Eric Benson

Quick Fact

When completed, the Juvenile Justice Center will contain 850,000 square feet of drywall. If you placed each drywall sheet end to end, it would stretch 40.2 miles.

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Marous Brothers Adds the Final Touches

Marous Brothers Construction is the General Trades Contractor for the Court Interiors phase of the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Project. "We do some of the required work ourselves and sub-contract out some of it," Scott Marous Jr., project manager of Marous Brothers explained.

"On this job, Marous Brothers is installing all the doors, frames and hardware and doing metal stud installation and millwork. We're also doing the drywall installation, masonry, glass, glazing, flooring and painting, all of which we've sub-contracted out," he said. The company first came on site with 50 workers on December 1, 2009.

"Right now we're working on the sixth, seventh and eighth floors, which is where we started," Marous points out. "We should be done with those

floors by early June. While we're finishing up on those floors, however, we'll also begin work on the third, fourth and fifth floors. Once all those floors are completed, we'll tackle the first, second and ninth floors."

The biggest portion of the project by far is the millwork, which includes moldings, doors, door frames, window sashes, stair work, and cabinets. "This is high-end millwork we're doing here," he points out. "It's a demanding job that requires a lot of skill and expertise, and we have to deliver excellent results."

The company is proud to work on the Juvenile Justice Center. "This is definitely a beautiful structure with great design points. I think it will benefit the Fairfax neighborhood tremendously," Marous said.



Rachel Morris Soffit installs courtroom ceilings



Rob Mauer on stilts taping drywall



Shawn Williams, finisher, file tapes the court room

The Crowning Touch

The top of the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) will be anything but boring.

According to Scott Dunlop, project superintendent, Panzica Construction, an impressive dome is the central feature of the grand lobby ceiling and the exterior's focal point for the entry/pavilion.

"We're responsible for the construction of the outer dome and the shell of the inner dome," he explained. "The dome is 40 feet in diameter and rises approximately 60 feet from the lobby floor. The outer dome, with a cap known as a 'cupola,' measures 10 feet in diameter. It's completed except for the finial, which is a decorative spire. We're installing the inner dome shell right now, and it should be completed in about a month."

"On average, six people at a time have been working on the dome, including car-

penters, roofers, glazers, ironworkers, painters, pipe fitters, insulators and sheet metal workers," Dunlop explained.

The interior of the dome and of the Great Hall above which the dome rises, were collaboratively designed by Vocon Partners, a Cleveland architecture and design firm, and Justice Planning Associates. "The color of the dome was selected to provide a dignified but pleasing appearance. In the sunlight, it is intended to have a welcoming glow," Dave Robar, studio director at Vocon explained. "The somewhat formal appearance of the Great Hall and the bright colors used in the interior of the building were selected to inspire visitors to the building."

Robar described the dome mural concept. "The interior of the dome will be painted with a serene, celestial mural between decorative structural ribs that will appear to

support the fiberglass panels," he explained. "The interior will be illuminated by low-energy lighting to maintain the concept of a beacon during low-daylight and evening hours."



Dome steel support is lowered on base.

The Tower of Change is a monthly publication of Cuyahoga County. For comments, suggestions and story ideas, please contact Montrie Rucker Adams at 440-684-9920 or info@visibilitymarketing.com

"Opportunity is missed by most because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." – Thomas Edison