



Edgetech

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Rookery Retrofit

Hailed in its day as "the largest, most modern, convenient, and beautiful office building in the world", the 12-story Rookery, in the heart of Chicago's financial district, is undergoing its third major renovation in 102 years.

In doing so, glaziers on the \$50 million project chose Super Spacer" when it came time to handle what looked like the troublesome task of converting to double-pane, some 230 radius-top (arched) windows.

Edgetech's involvement in such a high profile heritage—retrofit provides "a showcase" for Super Spacer" to exhibit its value to the industry, say company officials, as well as a chance, in future discussions, to introduce interested retro—fitters in other heritage—glazing designs, such as krypton gas—fill units.

The Rookery was originally designed by noted 19th Century architects, Bunrham and Root, and contains such unique structural innovations as a floating foundation, and iron—frame instead of masonry—load—bearing construction, thus marking the transition to today's skeletal—steel framing.

It's design also featured plate glass, fire—proofing, and hydraulic elevators, along with such other "state of the art" amenities as
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Vinyl Therm aims for ultimate window package

A recent switch to Super Spacer™ for use in its high performance product lines, has meant that Vinyl Therm Inc. of Bloomington, Minnesota, one of America's largest vinyl window manufacturers, "is now building and selling what we believe is the ultimate in window packages," says U.S. marketing director, Keith Lawson.

Sold as an energy package called Ultratech HP4, the units contain low-e glazing, argon-gas fill, Super Spacer™, and a low-maintenance product called Clear Shield applied to exterior surfaces to reduce window washing.

The HP4 package is available in all Vinyl Therm product lines. Recently, the company introduced a curved glazing unit for use as a garden window box. The Garden Galaxy product is especially suited for use with Super Spacer™, says Lawson. "It's easier to work with in curved bent glass applications than either metal spacers or Swiggle Strip'

"When it comes to marketing, the biggest concern is anything that becomes a visible difference," says Lawson. For instance, an issue with consumers these days is condensation, and "a metal spacer, or even this Swiggle system, will have condensation form much easier and quicker than Edgetech's Super Spacer' will. In other words," he adds, "it will live-up much more to the promise of the way the windows are originally sold."

Of importance as well is Super Spacer' 's neutral appearance as compared to other "quite ugly" edge-seal systems. "As far as looks go, spacers are never usually an issue," says Lawson, "unless they stand out, and then they do become an issue."

Edgetech in Europe

In the first 12 months since acquiring Edgetech, Lauren Manufacturing has not only seen a highly successful launch of Super Spacer' into the North American insulating glass market, but now seems likely to witness a similarly rapid acceptance of the product in Europe.

Pairing up with its new European distributor, Chemie Uetikon, a Swiss chemical firm based in Zurich, Lauren introduced Super Spacer' tEurope in October at GlasTec'90, the world's largest glass trade show, held in Dusseldorf.

"The response was tremendous," says Peter Hawes, Super Spacer's product manager at Chemie Uetikon. "The exhibition was exciting and provided much initial encouragement," says Hawes. "What many people were saying to me was that, 'This is the first new product I have seen that I can believe in straight away'," he adds.

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Garden Galaxy with Ultratech HP4

Apart from its pleasing appearance and superior performance, Lawson feels Super Spacer' has provided Vinyl Therm windows added saleability. "It gives us, as a manufacturer, a point of difference with our competitors, because to the average

consumer a window is a window is a window."

Presently, sales of Ultratech HP4 units make up half the company's total volume in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, a tri-state area serviced by Vinyl Therm's Bloomington plant. "We also have fabricators in other parts of the country looking at Super Spacer" too," says Lawson.

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