Benefits of Copper in Architecture

Life Cycle Costs
Copper’s ease of installation, along with its well-known long life and freedom from maintenance, have made it the material of choice for centuries.

Recyclable, Sustainable
Copper was first used by humans more than 10,000 years ago. It has an infinite recyclable life—nearly all the copper ever mined is still in circulation. Today, some 75%–80% of all copper production comes from recycled copper scrap. For architectural metal, there is no more sustainable resource.

Corrosion Resistant
Copper withstands the hardest conditions, from coastal areas to heavy industrial environments. In fact, weathering helps form the pleasing, blue-green copper sulfate film (patina) that inhibits corrosion.

Strong, Durable, Fire-Resistant
Sheet copper panels will last the life of a building with little or no maintenance, and they are fire-resistant.

Easy to Work and Join
For new or retrofit construction, copper is the easiest metal to install with either manual or power tools. Available in a wide range of gauges, copper is easily cut, formed and joined, mechanically or with solder.

Warm, Beautiful Color
The warmth and beauty of copper’s living patina, in addition to its variety of available finishes and textures, enhance and complement any design concept and building style.

Copper Architectural Applications
- Roofing
- Edge Strips
- Expansion Joints
- Fascias
- Flashings
- Gravel Stops
- Gutters and Leaders
- Mansards
- Parapets
- Scuppers
- Soffits
- Wall Cladding
- Column Covers

The Copper Development Association Inc. (CDA) and the Canadian Copper and Brass Development Association (CCBDA) are the central, authoritative sources of technical data and information on the selection, fabrication and application of architectural copper, brass and bronze.

CDA and CCBDA staff support architects, engineers, contractors, builders and building owners through:
- Direct design training and technical support services
- Publications, videotapes, training programs and seminars
- Material, product and contractor source databases

For information on copper roofing and flashing applications see Sweet’s Catalog No. 07610/COO, or contact the Copper Development Association.
PROJECTS AND ARCHITECTS:
(clockwise from top left)

• Ryerson Polytechnical Institute’s Rogers Communication Center, Toronto, Canada. Architect: NORR Partnership Ltd.

• Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, Washington, D.C. Architect: Leo Daly

• Anchor Center (and cover photo), Phoenix, Arizona. Architect: HNTB

• Mount Holyoke College Library Bridge, South Hadley, Massachusetts. Architect: Graham Gund
“We chose copper because it is long lasting, trouble free, beautiful…easy to fit to the complex…it shelters and dignifies.”

— Frank Harmon

PROJECTS AND ARCHITECTS:
(top to bottom)
- Ceridian Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Architect: HGA Inc.
- Yale Psychiatric Institute, New Haven, Connecticut. Architect: Frank O. Gehry/Allan Dehar

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