



Project	Southern Methodist University (SMU) Simmons Hall
Architect	Perkins and Will
General Contractor	Vaughn Construction
Masonry Contractor	Wilks Masonry
Products	Architectural Cast Stone (Precast Concrete)

ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL STONE (AAS) PROJECT SUPPORT: DESIGN PHASE, MANUFACTURING, SEQUENCING AND CONSTRUCTION PLANNING, INSTALLATION

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SMU SIMMONS HALL ARCHITECTURAL STONE CLADDING

This is a classic building on the campus of Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas. It is an academic building with classroom and student labs for various departments.

The structure is approximately 40,000 square feet.

The architectural stone cladding and design accent kept the building consistent with the adjacent buildings on the campus.



Oversized cast stone columns are the focal point of this structure. The columns have height of all four floors of the building. Each column has diameter of five to six feet.

AAS team developed custom molds using detailed CAD drawings. The molds were precisely cut using CNC machining capabilities. The process used not only the AAS technology, but also the design craftsmanship of the project team members.

Computerized batch plant provided consistency in color, and structural properties of the manufactured stone.



Column design is implemented using large custom size precast pieces. Precision in design and manufacturing process simplified the installation and onsite planning at time of construction.



The side entry columns required detailed engineering and production planning. These columns were inset into a radius wall, meaning that the columns were not symmetrical—a unique design and manufacturing challenge. Each piece required custom curvature on the inside and tapered cylindrical shaping on the outside.

The cylindrical base of the columns and the pieces attached from both sides have a custom shape that allowed the cast stone pieces to be installed in place, without carving or retrofitting.

AAS provided a detailed layout or setting plan that showed how all the pieces joined together for the construction.

The manufacturing and delivery schedule planned delivery releases in sync with onsite construction milestones. AAS has a very well thought out system of labeling every pallet; that simplifies the installation of the cast stone pieces.



TROUBLESHOOTING, CONFORMING TO AS BUILT CONDITIONS

The entry porticos had assemblies that tied into the cornice on the main building. Because the structural steel was slightly off, the transition cornice on the portico didn't align properly with the main building cornice. The AAS project manager worked closely with the mason and developed full scale templates. The project team then coordinated this with the CAD department and the form shop to ensure the pieces were made according to onsite field conditions.

The improvised cast stone piece was designed and manufactured with four days of turnaround.



As built conditions didn't match the design, the cast stone piece wouldn't fit..



“The ability of the AAS project team to keep consistent focus on the project from beginning to the end helped make the difference with this project. The design of custom molds using our CNC machining capabilities, consistent color for the manufactured stone using our computerized batch plant, and close coordination with the contractor to plan and sequence of manufacturing architectural stone enabled us to meet the customer’s needs without hiccups in execution. Precise setting drawings, along with very detailed grouping of cast stone in different releases, minimized confusion on the construction site.

Our customer support team is very well experienced – our staff members have been working in the industry for long time with proven track record of carrying out design, manufacturing, as well as onsite support for a wide range of construction projects.

We are able to assign a dedicated team for every customer project. That enables close coordination with architects, contractors, and masons, mitigating risk in execution. We are also able to react to adjustments required when an as built construction site has deviations from the design.”

Tim Michael
Vice President Operations
[Advanced Architectural Stone](http://AdvancedArchitecturalStone.com)

