

# Project Profile



## Marriott International, Inc. Orlando, Florida

### Marriott Uses Fiberglass Mat Dens™ Brand Gypsum Panels for Construction and Renovation

**F**aced with preventing moisture issues while keeping time sensitive projects in mind, Marriott International, Inc.'s design and construction team chose the Georgia-Pacific fiberglass mat Dens™ Brand gypsum panels for the Orlando, Florida-area hotel projects.

The Georgia-Pacific Gypsum fiberglass mat products used for multiple projects included: DensGlass™ Exterior Sheathing, DensGlass™ Ultra Shaftliner and DensShield® Tile Backer.

The fiberglass mat panels not only mitigated the team's concerns with moisture management during construction, but it also saved significant time between closing for renovations and re-opening. The faster the projects are completed, the faster hotels can begin filling rooms with paying guests.

#### Collaboration Leads to Innovation

Among the first and most influential users of DensGlass Exterior Sheathing was Marriott, based in Bethesda, Maryland with more than 2,900 hotel properties in the United States and 67 other countries. Several dozen properties are in and around Orlando, and have included one or more Dens Brand gypsum products in the construction or renovation of area hotels.

Warren Neiman of Marriott who specializes in full-service domestic hotel renovation was an early advocate of Georgia-Pacific's fiberglass



Photo courtesy of Marriott International, Inc.

mat products. According to Warren Barber, Georgia-Pacific product manager for Dens Brand products, "We listened to what Warren Neiman had to say. Our best innovations and product extensions come from the design and contractor community. If they're having a problem, and they think it would be better for them if we customized an existing product a bit to solve it, we're always ready to listen." Neiman adds, "Georgia-Pacific is very easy to work with and they know that if you make something people need, they'll buy it. We want to maintain Marriott's high standards in all that we do, and that's what we look for in the products we use."

#### Mold and Moisture Concerns Inside Out

The hot and humid climate of the Orlando area can create moisture problems during and after construction. In Marriott hotel rooms, whose construction preceded the advent of the fiberglass mat Georgia-Pacific gypsum panels, the moisture-laden air with air-conditioning units near windows gets trapped in wall cavities forming condensation. The mixture of moisture and condensation with paper-faced drywall creates a haven for mold growth. Marriott's design and construction team searched for solutions to moisture problems found in renovations and ways to eliminate the problem in new structures. The team's choice to use fiberglass mat gypsum panels from Georgia-Pacific Gypsum was easy.



## An Elegant Solution

The team quickly embraced the DensGlass Exterior Sheathing because of its increased moisture and mold resistance over paper-faced options for their Orlando area projects. Lengthy new construction cycles and renovation projects in the hospitality industry often fall victim to rain and other adverse weather conditions in such humid locales; therefore, Georgia-Pacific Gypsum fiberglass mat products have proven to be especially attractive over paper-faced alternatives. They are the market's first exterior gypsum panels to be backed by the unprecedented twelve-month weather exposure limited warranty. (DensArmor Plus® Interior panels are warranted up to six months.) Long-term mold risks are greatly reduced by eliminating the food source for mold making fiberglass mat products the best solution for both pre- and post-construction potential moisture and mold growth issues.

Georgia-Pacific Gypsum estimates that it has provided a variety of Dens products to hundreds of Marriott construction or renovation projects throughout the United States. Neiman, Marriott's full-service domestic hotels renovation specialist, estimates that the company does more than 200 renovation projects in the U.S. every year—including the remodeling of guest rooms, lobbies, restaurants and ballrooms.

## Early Installation Speeds Openings

Fiberglass mat gypsum products accelerate the remodeling and construction process while eliminating the moisture problem allowing quicker openings or re-openings of hotels. Marriott's construction and design team were able to speed the construction and renovation process because DensArmor Plus interior panels could be installed earlier in the process, potentially allowing other trades to begin work sooner. John Hurst, architectural group manager for Georgia-Pacific Gypsum, noted that the evolution of and ongoing acceptance for the Dens product line by the hospitality industry companies is simple to understand. "When you can show a property owner with high occupancy rates that his hotel will get built or remodeled faster and also last longer—the choice is simple."

For more information about fiberglass mat gypsum panels, copies of our warranties or other product information, visit [www.gpgypsum.com](http://www.gpgypsum.com) or call 1-800-225-6119.

Photo courtesy of Marriott International, Inc.



### SALES INFORMATION AND ORDER PLACEMENT

**U.S.A.** Midwest: 1-800-876-4746 West: 1-800-824-7503  
South: 1-800-327-2344 Northeast: 1-800-947-4497

**CANADA** Canada Toll Free: 1-800-387-6823  
Quebec Toll Free: 1-800-361-0486

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Georgia-Pacific Gypsum Technical Hotline  
U.S.A. and Canada: 1-800-225-6119  
[www.gpgypsum.com](http://www.gpgypsum.com)

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### UPDATES AND CURRENT INFORMATION

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### LIMITATION OF REMEDIES AND DAMAGES

Unless otherwise stated in our written warranty for these products, our sole liability for any product claim shall be limited to reimbursement of the cost of repair or replacement of the affected product, up to a maximum amount of two times the original purchase price for the affected product. We shall not be responsible under any circumstances for lost profits, damage to a structure or its contents, or indirect,

incidental, special or consequential damages. Claims shall be deemed waived if they are not submitted to us in writing within ten (10) days after discovery of a product defect/circumstance giving rise to a claim.

**CAUTION: For product fire, safety and use information, go to [gp.com/safetyinfo](http://gp.com/safetyinfo).**

### HANDLING AND USE

**CAUTION:** This product contains fiberglass facings which may cause skin irritation. Dust and fibers produced during the handling and installation of the product may cause skin, eye and respiratory tract irritation. Avoid breathing dust and minimize contact with skin and eyes. Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants and eye protection. Always maintain adequate ventilation. Use a dust mask or NIOSH/MSHA approved respirator as appropriate in dusty or poorly ventilated areas. For additional product fire, safety

and use information go to [www.gp.com/safetyinfo](http://www.gp.com/safetyinfo) or call 1-800-225-6119.

### FIRE SAFETY CAUTION

Passing a fire test in a controlled laboratory setting and/or certifying or labeling a product as having a one-hour, two-hour, or any other fire resistance or protection rating and, therefore, as acceptable for use in certain fire rated assemblies/systems, does not mean that either a particular assembly/system incorporating the product, or any given piece of the product itself, will necessarily provide one-hour fire resistance, two-hour fire resistance, or any other specified fire resistance or protection in an actual fire. In the event of an actual fire, you should immediately take any and all actions necessary for your safety and the safety of others without regard for any fire rating of any product or assembly/system.