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BUILDING COMMUNITY



CENTENARIAN SCHOOL REVITALIZED WITH PEX HEATING SYSTEM

Receives PPI Project of the Year Award

IRVING, Texas - Providing a new heating system for the historical Wormley School in Washington, DC as it was reborn into million dollar condos earned top honors as the Plastics Pipe Institute, Inc. (PPI) Project of the Year for the non-profit industry group's Building and Construction Division. More than three miles of PEX crosslinked polyethylene tubing was used as part of the transformation of the dilapidated 125-year-old landmark school building. The PEX tubing from Uponor, Inc (Apple Valley, MN) now provides radiant heat to all seven luxury condos and for the building's pavement snow melting system. The award was presented during the PPI's annual meeting earlier this year. Founded in 1950, the Plastics Pipe Institute Inc. is the major trade association representing all segments of the plastic piping industry.

The new radiant floor heating systems consists of more than 15,000 feet of linear PEX 1/2 inch diameter tubing that was installed in only two days at the three story building. Contractor Foley Mechanical (Lorton, VA) used a 12-man crew equipped with several battery-powered rebar tying tools to wrap the PEX, tie it off and cut the wire in less than a second. Company owner Dan Foley modified off-the-shelf models for the job. "With this tool and PEX's inherent ability to be quickly installed, we were able to meet the installation timetable and provide the best possible heating system."

"This is an excellent example of the benefits provided by PEX pipe including cost saving,

energy efficiency, rapid installation and comfort," stated Tony Radoszewski, executive director of the PPI, "and that is why this historical project was selected by PPI members to receive this honor.

"This project also shows that flexible PEX pipe is gaining popularity as it satisfies the needs of homeowners, builders, and plumbers by providing long-term performance, and making installations more labor and cost efficient. PEX is the material of choice for radiant heating systems and is quickly replacing copper for residential potable water plumbing," he explained.



Other applications for PEX include AWWA municipal water service; snow and ice melt systems; turf conditioning; and residential fire sprinklers. Typically found in sizes from 3/8 inch to 2 inches in diameter, PEX pipe comes in straight lengths or coils and is made from a toughened plastic compound.

Now called Wormley Row, 15,500 feet of 1/2-inch diameter Wirsbo hePEX™ tubing was used for the heating system, plus 3,000 feet of 3/4-inch diameter Wirsbo hePEX tubing was



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used for the snow melt system. To connect the remote manifolds to the boiler room, 5/8-inch diameter and 3/4-inch diameter multi-layer composite tubing (PEX-AL-PEX) was used.



According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Research Center Design Guide, PEX pipe is efficient to install because it is flexible and uses mechanical fittings, eliminating the need for soldering and the flames and chemicals associated with “sweating” joints. It also resists corrosion and scaling. A PEX plumbing system is also cost effective because it is less labor intensive and can optimize system performance.

“Besides the performance and economic benefits of PEX pipe, there are environmental ones as well,” Radoszewski added. “PEX pipe

supports green building initiatives because it is energy efficient due to reduced heat loss through the pipe wall and it conserves water by reducing the wait time for hot water to reach the fixture.”

PEX is approved in all North American-model plumbing codes for hot and cold potable water distribution systems, but sometimes its use requires legislative action. The PEX Design Guide is available from the PPI.

“I guess the determining factor as to whether or not this project is a success comes down to the final result, and that is that the second most expensive condo sold in Washington, D.C. during March was at Wormley Row -- \$3,780,000 for a 4,700 square foot unit. Our congratulations to Wormley Row, Foley Mechanical, Uponor and the material supplier for the tubing, LyondellBasell Industries.”

Additional information including the PPI PEX Design Guide can be found on the PPI website: www.plasticpipe.org.

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About PPI:

The Plastics Pipe Institute Inc. (PPI) is the major trade association representing all segments of the plastic pipe industry and is dedicated to promoting plastics as the material of choice for pipe applications. PPI is the premier technical, engineering and industry knowledge resource publishing data for use in development and design of plastic pipe systems. Additionally, PPI collaborates with industry organizations that set standards for manufacturing practices and installation methods.