

At-A-Glance

A record-breaking skyscraper in California benefits from seismic solutions that make a visual statement while keeping the building safe.

CASE STORY

Wilshire Grand Center
Los Angeles, CA

About the Project

Los Angeles' captivating lifestyle and endless opportunities are why people gravitate to this mecca of culture and tourism in California. Adding to its appeal, the city is now home to the tallest building west of the Mississippi – Wilshire Grand Center. Located in the heart of downtown LA, this 73-story structure stands 1,100 feet tall, and includes a 900-room InterContinental hotel, five restaurants, and multi-floor, Class A office space. It also features an alluring, glass skylight, which cascades like an elevated waterfall above the entrance.

Challenge

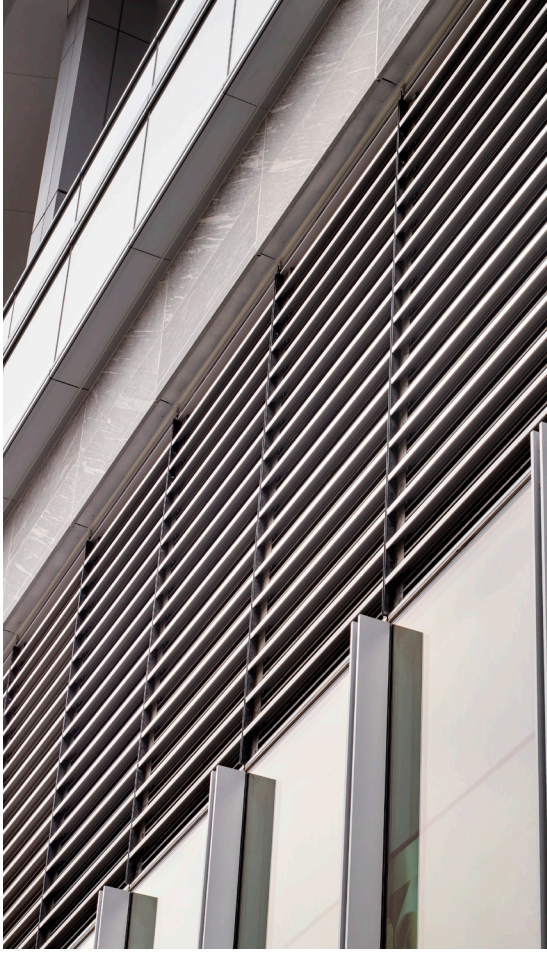
Architect AC Martin designed LA's newest skyscraper with the public's benefit in mind. They envisioned floor-to-ceiling panels of glass extending from the



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foundation to simulate movement and allow natural light to penetrate the building's interior.

For the skylight above the entrance, the team visualized glass curtains incorporating customizable curves and dimensional shapes that could withstand unpredictable structural shifts.

It was important for AC Martin to utilize products that would provide a stunning visual for the building's exterior while also ensuring resiliency within the infrastructure to withstand a potential seismic event.

Solution

The AC Martin design team designated CS architectural louvers and seismic expansion joint covers to meet the project's complex design requirements, and then they linked up with CS' BetterBuilt Studio™ to customize.

The collaboration yielded custom-fabricated expansion joint covers that were incorporated into the compound curve of the glass atrium, which has become the structure's signature element.

For the exterior, CS' Bold Line louvers contributed to the desired look with their mix of bold and shallow blades painted different colors. They also allow the mechanical HVAC equipment to function properly. Installed on both the podium and tower, the louver system had to be customized to fit into the curtain wall.

The Wilshire Grand Center matches the energetic ambience that LA radiates, and it brings a new age of architectural intrigue to the city by overcoming design obstacles that were once considered insurmountable; it's the tallest building in the world built on such seismically sensitive ground. Its head-to-toe windows shimmer in daylight and are illuminated at night, while the unique curved top transforms the city's skyline.

Learn more about BetterBuilt Studio →

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