

RAiNA REPORT

3RD QUARTER 2024

RAiNA CONFERENCE CHICAGO, IL

FEATURE ARTICLE

Consolidating A New Rainscreen Performance Specification

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NOVEMBER 7, 2024

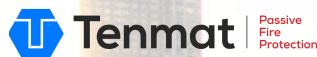
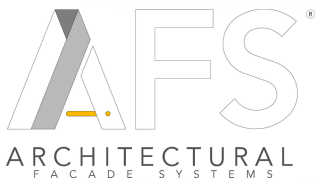
RAiNA CONFERENCE

CREATING BUILDINGS THAT ENDURE
CHICAGO, IL



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Letter from the Chairperson

Hello RAINA Community,

I hope your summer was relaxing and fun and that you are all charged up for a busy and productive Fall. RAINA kept busy in Q3 as we prepared for a very active Q4. A big part of that activity is our Fall Conference in Chicago. The agenda is filling out nicely, as is the registration and sponsorship. If you haven't signed up to attend (or sponsor), I encourage you to do so soon. For more details: [RAINA Conference - Rainscreen Association in North America](#).



Our committees continued to work hard through the summer and we saw the Definitions Committee make good progress on the terms Air Space, Open Joint, Closed Joint, and Baffle/Spline Joint. Our Retrofit Committee is working away on their guideline document for rainscreen retrofit while the performance committee did the same for a Division 1 Specification. With the "Intro to Rainscreens" presentation now completed via our Education and Training Committee, we've seen interest in this program which will be presented to the Metalcon Virtual Audience on September 18th. In fact, RAINA will have 8 presentations this fall independent of our Chicago Conference, including a date at the IFD World Congress Conference in Austria this November. The IFD includes a global Façade Commission and would like to hear what is happening in North America. RAINA is looking forward to presenting on the global stage and aims to bridge connections with our European counterparts. More to come on that during our Q4 Newsletter.

RAINA will also host it's own hands-on in-person installer training this October in Virginia and all is on-track for a successful event. If you are interested in supporting such events moving forward, please don't hesitate reaching out.

As always, thank you for all of your efforts advancing both RAINA and better built building enclosures and I look forward to seeing you all in Chicago on November 7th!

Todd Kimmel

Welcome New Members

Technoform

C.F. Robb Consulting Services

Pro Metal Exterior Construction



Member Opportunities

RAINA Hosted Monthly Member Webinars

Amplify your voice by showcasing your rainscreen-related presentation in our monthly AIA-accredited webinars. Contact our office to schedule your webinar.

Presenting? Let us know!

Whether it's an in-person presentation or virtual, let RAINA help spread the word via the events calendar on our website. Email us with the details to start sharing your next upcoming presentation.

Member Spotlight

We want to continue to feature our incredible list of members on our social media platforms. This include a write up, your company logo and images of projects your company has been working on, any image you feel best represents your company/brand. Contact our office to be featured.

[EMAIL US](#)

RAiNA Committee Updates

Performance Committee - The Division 1 Performance Specification has been completed and will be under review by the RAiNA Board of Directors. Additionally, the committee is in the final stages of preparing RAiNA Technical Bulletin #2: Understanding Rainscreens Applied To, or as a Part of Aluminum Curtainwall Systems.

New Guidance Document in Development

RAiNA is currently developing a Guidance Document designed to support Designers and Architects in completing the Division One Performance Specification. This document will offer a clear, two-column format that presents key information—highlighting specific criteria to consider and outlining what to avoid. With this resource, design professionals will have a succinct, accessible guide to ensure optimal outcomes when working with the specification.

The Codes Committee continues to make progress through the Group A code hearings, working closely with code consultant Theresa Weston. The committee has established a clear path forward to ensure RAiNA's priorities are effectively represented in the hearings.

Looking ahead, the Codes Committee is already gearing up for the 2025 Group B hearings. They are in the process of developing a comprehensive work plan to guide their efforts for the coming year, ensuring that RAiNA remains at the forefront of code developments that impact the industry.

The Definitions Committee is actively working to refine key industry terms and meets every three weeks to ensure progress. At our members' request, the committee is reviewing the definitions for Rainscreen Cladding Panel and Rainscreen Cladding Joint.

Additionally, discussions are underway for the terms Retrofit and Recladding, with the committee gathering resources and analyzing current industry definitions to ensure clarity and alignment.

The Residential Committee has been actively developing standard details that highlight the effective use of rainscreen systems in residential wall assemblies. These details emphasize the importance of incorporating proper flashings and components to ensure open ventilation throughout the exterior wall assembly. With a variety of options available, these guidelines aim to assist architects and design professionals in specifying the right drainage materials and ventilation components for durable, high-performance wall systems.

Education & Training Committee is excited to announce that RAiNA members now have access to the "Introduction to Rainscreens" presentation, developed by the Education and Training Committee. What does this mean for members? Members can now present this valuable resource to your network as often as you'd like, helping to spread knowledge and insights about rainscreens. If you have any questions about the process or need guidance on how to report your presentations to the RAiNA office, don't hesitate to reach out to us!

Retrofit Committee is pleased to announce the publication of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for 3D Visualizations and Graphic Layouts to support the creation of case studies and a technical guidance document. This opportunity is open for bidding, with a closing date of October 18, 2024.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to submit a proposal, **click to access the RFP document on the RAiNA website.**

Get Involved - Join a Committee

There are seven committees which are led by two Board-appointed Co-chairs. The committees develop policies and procedures, as well as make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEW & Noteworthy

RAiNA Awards

Call for Entries – RAiNA Awards: Design & Technical Excellence

The Rainscreen Association in North America (RAiNA) is excited to announce the call for entries for the inaugural RAiNA Awards: Design & Technical Excellence. These awards honor outstanding achievements in technical innovation, design creativity, sustainability, and construction management within the industry.

Why Enter?

The RAiNA Awards celebrates the pinnacle of our industry, recognizing projects that showcase the advantages of rainscreen technology, including enhanced energy efficiency, aesthetic versatility, and positive environmental impact. Earning a RAiNA Award not only brings distinguished recognition to your project but also underscores your dedication to excellence in design and construction.



Open to the Public

RAiNSCREEN INSTALLATION TRAINING

October 29 - 30, 2024



CFS Designs US
5109 Commonwealth Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Upcoming Rainscreen Training

OCTOBER 29-30

Hosted by CFS in Fredericksburg, VA

JANUARY 8-9, 2025

New York City with New York Carpenters Union

FEATURE ARTICLE

Consolidating A New Rainscreen Performance Specification

by Corey Wowk & Philip Frederick, P.E., SGH

Where do designers and specification writers incorporate the various parts, components, materials, and their corresponding performance requirements for a rainscreen assembly into a project's specifications? In our experience, these items are spread across multiple specification sections...often flipping between Division 4 for masonry cladding assemblies and Division 7 for other exterior wall materials...with incomplete, inconsistent, or competing requirements. There must be a better way. Now there is!

Over the past year, a task group under the Rainscreen Performance committee, in coordination with an external specification writer (Amy Baker Architects), spent a considerable amount of time and effort developing a comprehensive performance specification for rainscreen assemblies. The goal is to create a unified document that addresses the gaps or discrepancies in existing specifications by linking various rainscreen parts, components, and their performance criteria into a cohesive framework.

Purpose of the Specification

Currently, no single specification connects the different components and performance criteria of a rainscreen system. To address this, the task group developed a Division 1 rainscreen performance specification. This new document integrates the general, product, and execution requirements using the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) 3-part method, to provide designers a specification that can be used in their project manual and assist with making appropriate design decisions when rainscreens are incorporated into their project.

This specification aims to streamline the process for designers by offering a framework that can be adapted to various project needs. It allows designers to incorporate detailed criteria related to individual components like water resistive barriers, insulation, cladding and cladding attachment systems, which remain within their respective specification sections, as well as address rainscreen system specific criteria such as drainage, ventilation, and thermal performance.

How It Works

The specification is designed to guide Architects/Designers of Record (DOR) through the decision-making process, rather than dictating every detail. It includes "hidden text" to help DORs select appropriate options for their projects and offer flexibility in choosing values or guidance where necessary. Specific product requirements, such as perm ratings for air barriers, will continue to be addressed in their respective sections.

The specification also covers testing requirements and thermal compliance for rainscreens, while specific component requirements are expected to be coordinated with or referenced back to this Division 1 performance specification.

Next Steps: Feedback and Outreach

This Summer, Performance Committee members voted on and passed a draft version of the Division 1 rainscreen specification. The constructive feedback provided during the voting ballot period by committee members is currently being incorporated into the final draft by the task group.

The final version will soon be posted on RAINA's website and ready for the design community's use. The end goal is to provide a versatile and comprehensive rainscreen performance specification that connects the dots and fills in the gap(s) between existing technical specifications and is suitable for a range of projects. We encourage our members to use and promote the specification to see how it helps the design community with their rainscreen system designs, provide feedback on what additional information needs to be implemented into the specification, and the work still needed to be produced such as guides, tests, standards, etc. to bring further clarity to rainscreen systems.

About the Authors



Corey C. Wowk, is a Senior Project Manager in the Building Technology Group at Simpson Gumpertz & Heger (SGH) and has over nineteen years of experience. He has worked on both small- and large-scale projects, including residential and commercial buildings, mixed-use high-rise facilities, and institutional projects.

He is a visiting professor at Pratt Institute's Graduate Architecture and Urban Design Program with coursework focused on integrated building systems. He is the Co-chair of the Rainscreen Association in North America (RAiNA) Performance Committee.

Philip Frederick's primary experience focuses on the design of building enclosure systems, including rainscreen assemblies, with a focus on performance, integration, and constructability. He is a current board member for RAINA and a regular participant in RAINA's Performance Committee.



Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

16 **RAiNA Hosted Member Webinar**
Mind the Gap

18 **Facades+ Toronto***

29-30 **RAiNA Rainscreen Installer Training**

30-1 **METALCON '24***

NOVEMBER

7 **RAiNA Conference**

7-8 **Facades+ Los Angeles***



***Contact RAiNA office for member-exclusive discount**

Rainscreen Resources

Rainscreen Presentations

Enrich your knowledge base with RAiNA's AIA-accredited presentations.

[See all available presentations](#)

Glossary

Intended to provide standardized terms and definitions for the rainscreen industry and associated systems, assemblies, sub-assemblies, accessories, materials, and products.

[View the Glossary](#)

RAiNA Literature Review Report: Rainscreen Performance

Providing a baseline of knowledge, this comprehension literature review looks at seven categories of information

[View the report](#)

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