

OKAWOOD - REFERENCES

USA | Philadelphia | Annenberg Public Policy

**Project:**

Annenberg Public Policy Center

Location:

Philadelphia / USA

Product:

OKAWOOD with timber grid and
OKAWOOD with timber veneer

Project volume:

OKAWOOD with timber grid: 74 m²
OKAWOOD with timber veneer: 164 m²

Client:

University of Pennsylvania / USA

Architect/Design:

Maki and Associates, Tokyo / Japan

Architect/Construction:

Ballinger, Philadelphia / USA

Metal worker:

Glazing Concepts LLC,
Bensalem / USA

Completion:

2010

Having received the contract to build an open and modern building for the Annenberg Public Policy Center (APPC), the renowned communication science institute of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, the architect's office of Maki and Associates developed a compact block completely of glass. Wood was used to complement the glass shell and add warmth and liveliness to the cool, sober façade material. This was accomplished with OKAWOOD insulating glass which has timber grids in the cavities between the panes, as well as OKAWOOD façade elements with timber veneer supplied by OKALUX. The wood not only affords a comfortable atmosphere and mild day-

light in the interior but also protects from glare and too much heat. The architect Fumihiko Maki from Tokyo and his team conceived a cubic building block consisting of four storeys. Offices and function rooms are arranged in a ring in the outer areas of the buildings, while the center is a three-storey atrium. This connects all levels of the APPC from the function hall "Agora" for 200 persons on the ground floor to the lounge on the upper floor. In this way, the planers create communicative intervisibility between the research sectors and flexible, useable areas. In order to make the design theme of transparence visible not only in the interior but for the main part, from the



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exterior, the building shell was conceived completely of glass. Glass, however, not only appears open but also cool and sober. That is why the architects added the element wood to the façade in some areas giving the building a warm atmosphere. In addition to the adjustable wooden panels which protect the employees from glare, the architects used OKAWOOD functional glass from OKALUX. The planners selected OKAWOOD insulating glass with timber grids of alder for both of the stairwells located at the façade. The glass panel is of single-pane security glass on both the outside and the inside with filigree timber insert in between. Warmly tinted daylight

enters the room through the grid while the timber insert serves as a screen and glare protection. As the panels are filled with inert gas and the interior pane is coated with a low-e coating, the glass elements have good heat insulating values. OKAWOOD insulating glass make up a total of 74 square meters of the stairwell façade. A special appearance was also intended for the large function hall "Agora" located on the lower floor. To achieve this, the architects again used OKAWOOD but instead of a grid, they selected a timber veneer of maple for the cavity between the panes. The constructor's request was to use only wood from a specially selected American maple tree for the



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façade elements. In addition, exact optical requirements concerning the wood grain had to be complied with. OKALUX is specialized in individual solutions of design, so meeting these high requirements was no problem at all. Thanks to OKAWOOD with maple veneer, the building has been given a noble touch on the outside as well as on the inside and a good regulation of daylight

in the "Agora". 164 square meters are covered with glass wooden panels which screen the interior. With OKAWOOD from OKALUX, Maki and Associates have succeeded in designing an elegant shell of wood and glass which affords a comfortable atmosphere of light to the interior during the day and lets the building glow like a lantern during the night.



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