



A NEW ÄSPEKT TO WINDOW DESIGN AND PERSPECTIVES

ALTERA WINDOWS & DOORS AND REHAU

[REHAU ÄSPEKT™](#) is so much more than just a commercial casement window. It is a unique combination of material formulation; structural integrity; and outstanding thermal, acoustic, air and water performance. ÄSPEKT's advanced, multi-chambered design accommodates steel reinforcement, which allows for really big window elements. In turn, this provides greater daylighting and brighter interior designs.

With features like fusion-welded corners, continuous frame design, and proprietary triple-seal technology, the potential for ÄSPEKT windows to experience a leakage problem is practically zero. Compared to aluminum windows, which are more prone to leakages due to their mechanically joined corners, these odds are music to any building owner's ears.

But best of all? Some of the highest marks are being given by general contractors. They are finding that ÄSPEKT windows install in about half the time of aluminum windows. For a 500-window project, this means time savings of up to 200-plus hours.

Sara Pierce is the owner of [Altera Windows & Doors](#), a REHAU fabricator. She clearly sees that ÄSPEKT was designed with the requirements of commercial projects in mind. "ÄSPEKT's unique features and inherent benefits work especially well for mixed-use mid-rise projects," she said, "which require more elevated performance characteristics than, say, your typical residential single-family home. This application is very unique because it's not yet a high-rise and therefore doesn't require the heavy commercially rated windows.

But it's also not a single-family home anymore for which standards are much lower when it comes to structural integrity, for example. Mixed-use, mid-rise projects lie somewhere in between. And ÄSPEKT is just perfect for this segment and actually allows us to replace aluminum windows with a uPVC product, which is something we have not been able to do before."

She continued, "Notably ÄSPEKT's STC rating, which mark the sound insulation properties, are much better than common windows on the market. This is because ÄSPEKT's frame and sash are designed with multiple chambers, which creates a larger air space. That, in addition to appropriate glazing options, enables us to achieve the higher STC ratings."

Pierce witnessed first-hand the numerous benefits of ÄSPEKT in her company's recent project with Taylor Morrison. "For that project," she recalled, "we built very large arch windows. They were about 10 feet wide and 8 feet tall, all in one single perimeter frame. If we hadn't built these windows with ÄSPEKT, we would have had to fabricate individual window elements and recommend to the client adding framing in between each window, or mull them together. Mulling windows is not something we recommend in the San Francisco Bay Area market for water intrusion concerns. If we had not have had ÄSPEKT, we would not have been able to accomplish this with any other product. The result with ÄSPEKT, however, looks so much better and it made our lives during manufacturing so much easier."

Ralph Childs, REHAU Commercial Sales Manager for the U.S. West Coast, agrees and adds that ÄSPEKT also enables architects and building owners to stylishly create living spaces with looks that potential occupants crave. The slim sightlines combined with sleek, contemporary engineering and more than 1,500 design options leaves very few limits to creative freedom. ÄSPEKT allows for a wide array of customized shapes and extensive design variations with different colors and patterns that will liven up any building interior and exterior. "Whereas with most other window systems the design options are somewhat limited, with ÄSPEKT we can actually make what architects and building owners want a reality," Childs remarked.

"Moving forward," Pierce forecasted, "ÄSPEKT is going to be one of the most relevant products in mixed-use commercial and custom residential solutions for Altera Windows & Doors. For us, ÄSPEKT is one of the most exciting fenestration innovations we have seen in some time."

Sara Pierce has been in the industry her entire life. Her father previously owned Preferred Window Products Inc. As soon as she was old enough, she started working there as a receptionist and shadowing her dad learning everything she could. She has worked in every department since: from installing windows in the field to tracking invoices until she got to where she is today – at the head of the company. She has since purchased the company and grown the business considerably, expanding to multiple states which led to the set up of additional companies, all operating under the umbrella of Pacific West Capitol Holdings Inc. PWCH is comprised of a family of diverse fenestration companies, offering installation and consultation services, products ranging from residential windows to storefront and curtain wall applications and now, most recently, the addition of the fabrication of REHAU windows and doors.

Ralph Childs has 30 years of experience in the fenestration industry. He has been with REHAU for 12 years. As REHAU Commercial Manager US West Coast he is responsible for providing products and services for better building solutions utilizing REHAU's European experience in fenestration design products. His areas of expertise are commercial construction, multi family, mixed use, hospitality.

by Teddy Durgin



Sara Pierce
Owner, Pacific West Capital Holdings Inc



Ralph Childs
Commercial Sales Manager US West Coast, REHAU Construction LLC

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