

Rainscreen Facade Case Study: Lockhart Stadium + Perez & Perez Architects

: :Fundermax



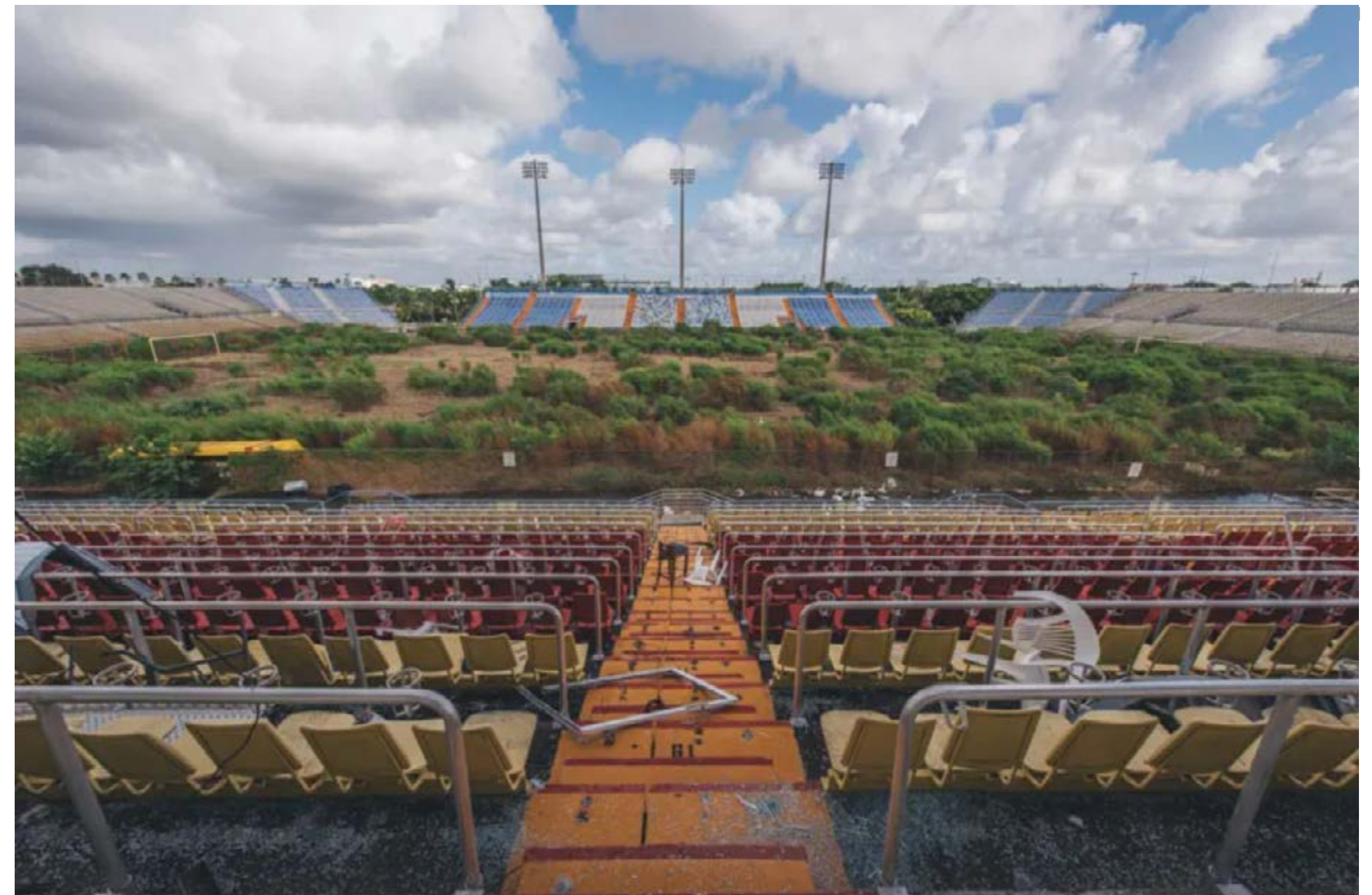
Scan to watch the
video interview with
Project Architect
Jaime Ruiz as part of
the case study:



Today, the iconic site of Lockhart Stadium in Fort Lauderdale is home to Florida's Major League Soccer team, Inter Miami CF (Club Internacional de Fútbol Miami).

The site includes Inter Miami's headquarters, training facility, practice fields, and the team's new home pitch: a brand new 64-acre natural turf, 18,000-capacity stadium.

Back in 2019, however, the site was just an abandoned sports complex buried in neglect – and the clock was ticking.



Situation

Situation



In March of 2019, Florida architecture firm Perez & Perez was contacted about an ambitious project: an 18,000-seat stadium for Inter Miami CF. The most ambitious part of the project: the 11-month timeline from design to completion. It had to be ready before the 2020 home opener.

Project Architect Jaime Ruiz noted that their firm normally works on transportation projects like airports and train stations as well as schools and some residential work. The stadium project would be their first project of its kind, so they reached out to David Manica about collaborating.



Situation

To accommodate the short timeline, they decided to simplify the design and structure by exposing certain parts and cladding others. Originally, the design called for all metal panels, but through the VE process, they determined that a different material was needed in order to provide the best possible value for the project's life-cycle.

The team considered many materials in addition to metal cladding, and while budget and time remained restrictive for some materials, exterior phenolic wall panels rose to the top of the list for their superior durability and versatility.

Ruiz had used phenolic panels before, but he wanted black panels with a black core, and his previous phenolic panel manufacturer didn't offer those. Phenolic panels remained at the top of the list, if only they could get the design right.



Solution

Solution



The team chose Fundermax Max Compact Exterior phenolic panels for three main reasons:

DESIGN FLEXIBILITY

The black design with pink accents was essential to the project. Fundermax was able to provide black core phenolic cladding panels, which allowed the design to be fulfilled as the architects intended.

The cladding consisted of fabricated 9' x 4' exterior phenolic panels in Black #0080 with the NT (matte) finish. The Fundermax panels were engineered and fabricated off site and then pre-drilled on the ground.



Solution

VERSATILITY & DURABILITY

Not only would Fundermax panels not dent, they could also be cut onsite for revisions. To adhere to design specifications, approximately 30% of the 40,000 ft² of phenolic panels required custom cuts onsite.

Working with a material that could withstand this kind of onsite work was especially important given the tight timeline, where durability during installation matters as much as durability over time.

When asked what he found most appealing about cladding the stadium with Fundermax panels, Ruiz answered, “The easy installation. And the fact that it’s less maintenance and wouldn’t get dented onsite or anything like that. The fact that you can cut the material onsite – that’s great, especially with the speed that we had to move with this project.”

LOW MAINTENANCE

The superior durability of a phenolic wall panel system equates to less maintenance, as a less durable material (like metal) would be much more likely to require regular repairs or replacement.



Ruiz recalls, **“One thing that we were worried about with metal panels is that if they get dented, they have to go replace the panel, and it becomes a big issue; versus the Fundermax panels which really don’t get dented.”**

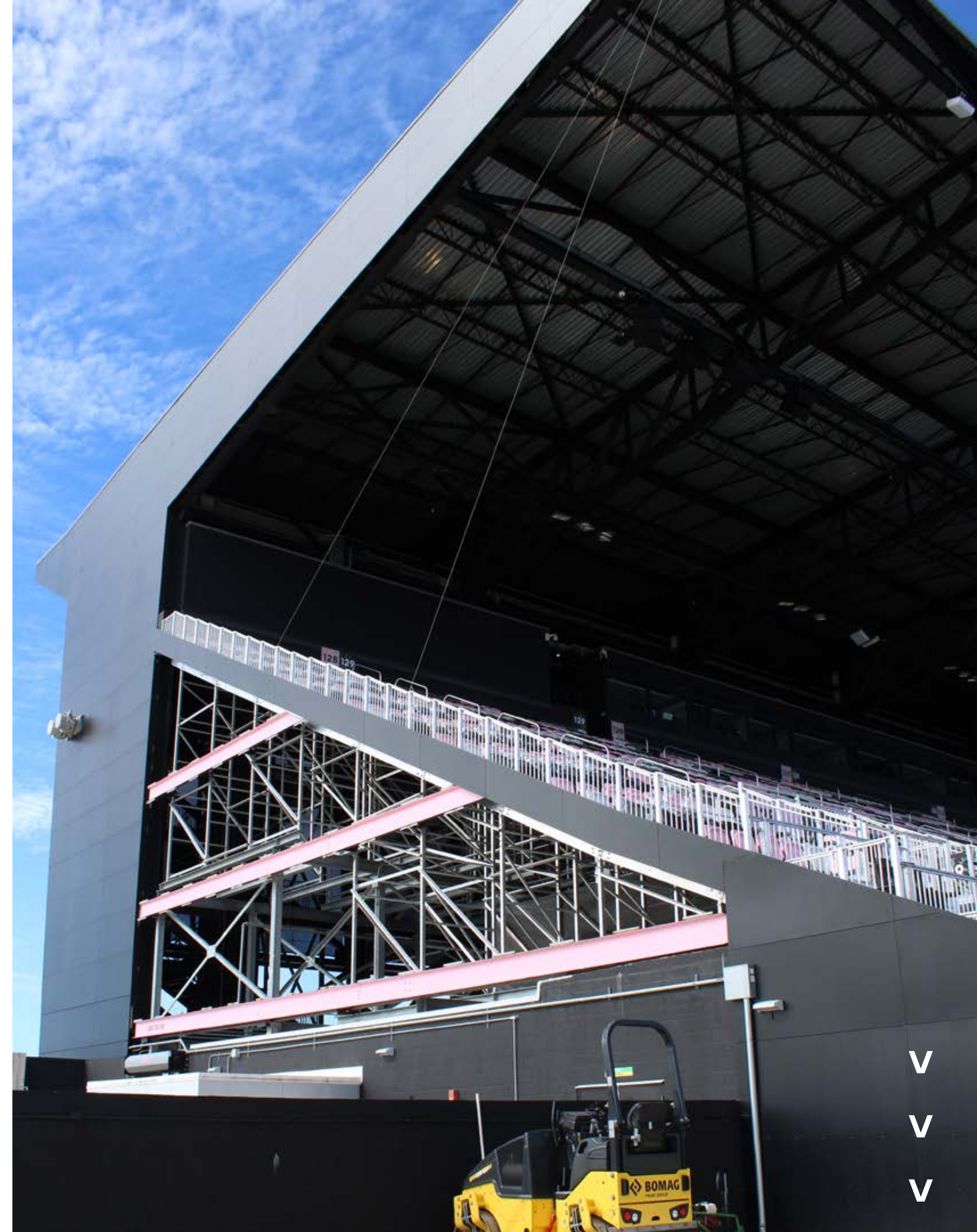
Results



The completed stadium, DRV PNK Stadium, leveraged black phenolic panels with black core and pink accent colors to represent the team and their partnership in breast cancer awareness.

According to Inter Miami CF, “The name of our stadium was selected in support of AutoNation’s Drive Pink initiative, which raises and donates funds to support cancer research and treatment. Together, the two organizations from South Florida have teamed up to do good for the community.”

Project Manager Philip Defrances was particularly pleased with the phenolic panel material. “[The phenolic panels] are very easy to work with... They’re easy to cut and to modify if we need to modify... I think the system is great for this, especially for stadiums. It looks good, and maintenance is good. If you ever need to penetrate it, you can take it off if you want. You can cut holes in it, and it still comes out looking like a finished product. I’ve worked with some other panels, and to modify them, you just don’t get the same product.”



The result: a stunning structure clad in striking architectural panels that can reliably handle Florida's persistent wind, heat, and humidity.

As Ruiz sums it up:

“Fundermax met everything
we were looking for.”







DRV*PNK STADIUM



AutoNation



AutoNation

119 | 120 | 121

1
Hard Hat
Safety Vest
Only



1

→ Gates 2 & 3
VIP Entry
Suites
Midfield
Club
Box Office

AutoNation
DRV PNK STADIUM



TICKET OFFICE

8

9





1
→ Gates 2 & 3
VIP Entry
Suites
Midfield
Club
Box Office

TICKET OFFICE







← **A**
Reserved
Parking
Ticket
Office

↑ **B**
Reserved
Parking
Training
Facility



AutoNation
DRV & PNK STADIUM

The Fundermax Difference



Finding black panels with a black core was essential to the design, and no other phenolic panel manufacturers were able to offer an exterior panel with an all-black core.

You may be surprised to learn that, at the time, Fundermax panels did not yet have an all black core either. But, Fundermax worked with the architect and their Fundermax partner, Formas, to make a special exception and create the black core panels by special request.

Thanks to the hard work and collaboration with Cecilia Pardo of Formas, we were able to create and deliver the desired panel, and Fundermax is now able to offer all-black core panels to future projects.

In addition to Fundermax panels' superior durability and low maintenance, we stand behind our products with our industry-leading warranty.

Fundermax exterior phenolic wall panels come with a 10-year warranty that includes labor.

We eagerly collaborate with architects, and we offer many ways to ensure your project is successful when using Fundermax panels. From offering samples, to providing input from experienced reps and our technical director, we are with you the whole way.

Regarding the choice to work with Fundermax specifically, Ruiz affirms that the product quality was an obvious factor: **"It's a great product. We are actually talking about it for another project that we're working on."**

He goes on to note that the Fundermax service experience stood out compared to experiences he'd had with competitors in this space. **"For us, it was an easy decision."**

DRV & PINK STADIUM

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