

CASE STUDY

### WASHINGTON MONUMENT

2213 14th Street • Washington, D.C.



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### **OVERVIEW**

### **PROJECT**

Use

Mixed-use apartment building

Size

68,809 sq. ft.

Cost

\$13.5 million

**Completion Date** 

July 2020

### **PEOPLE**

#### Owner

14th & R Street Enterprise, LLC

### **Architect**

The Eisen Group, Washington, DC

### **General Contractor**

Ellisdale Construction, Leesburg, VA

### Structural Engineer

Ehlert Bryan, Inc., Tysons, VA

### Cold-Formed Steel Panelizer

Panel Systems, Inc., Woodbridge, VA

### **STEEL**

43 - 97 mil cold-formed steel framing

## Urban Infill Project Adds 5 Stories with CFS and Saves \$1.7 Million

A standout apartment building lies in the busy 14th St. NW corridor of Washington, D.C.

The area is being renewed through a District Department of Transportation beautification project. It's the place to be for up-and-coming artists and professionals.

Here, Ellisdale Construction, a Leesburg, Va., design-build and general contracting firm, has achieved a first for the District. It added five stories to an existing concrete building using cold-formed steel (CFS) framing.

"The majority of the value-adds are cast in place and structural steel," says Ward Bell, executive vice president and COO, Ellisdale Construction. "You've never seen a transfer deck at the fourth floor with five levels of cold-formed steel framing on top of it. This has not been done in the District of Columbia."

### **MAXIMIZING THE FAR**

Located at 2213 14th St. NW, this urban infill project shows how an owner added rentable square footage (for a final tally of 56 units) quickly and affordably.

The original structure was a three-story office building with one level below grade for parking. Zoning allows for up to five additional floors, so long as the final structure fits within building height restrictions for the area, the Uptown Arts-Mixed Use Overlay District.

Ellisdale Construction officials made a critical decision early on. For the upper floors, they decided to use CFS structural framing, rather than post-tension concrete or wood.

"To maximize the FAR [floor area ratio], we couldn't do wood. Wood flooring would have eaten up too much space, and we would have lost a floor," Ward says. "Any wood joist





component system, an iSpan, and Ecospan, would have exceeded the building envelope restrictions."

Ellisdale considered a post-tension concrete product, but it was expensive.

"It was about \$35 per square foot more at the time," Bell says, "much more expensive than the cold-formed steel option."

The problem was, post-tension concrete framing would have increased the building's weight significantly. To achieve eight stories above grade, Ellisdale would have had to modify 15 of 20 structural columns and their footings, Bell says.

By using CFS, a durable but lighter material, Ellisdale modified only two of 20 footings to achieve eight stories. And, the CFS

provided no loss in dimensional stability. In fact, pound for pound, C-shaped steel studs have the highest strength-to-weight ratio of all commonly used construction materials, according to the Steel Framing Industry Association.

CFS framing saved \$1.7 million overall on the project, a 15-percent savings on the framing component alone, versus a castin-place post-tension product, Bell says.

### AMAZED AT THE TOP-OUT SPEED

CFS contributed other benefits. Installing the CFS panels, for example, required far less manpower than pouring post-tension concrete.

"The panelizer did all their work in the

shop and trucked the panels to the job," says Matt Villa, director of operations at Ellisdale Construction. "Compared to a concrete-framed building, we saw less labor and quicker turnaround on the floors."

Speed was achieved by the CFS-framed exterior panels being fully sheathed. During their erection, crews were able to do waterproofing, install windows and "get dry-in quickly," Villa says. Villa was amazed at how fast the job got topped out.

"I am used to five to seven days as a cycle per floor with post-tension concrete," Villa says. "Here we set panels in two days, decking over and pouring concrete in about a four-day cycle."

The owner of 2213 14th NW took occupancy in July 2020 and is happy with the results. Bell, too, is proud of his company's work.

"We had the ingenuity to build a transfer deck at the fourth floor, when you normally see a transfer deck at the first or second floor," Bell says. "Plus, we were able to do the installation without a tower crane or a self-erect crane, but with a soft tire crane. It saved the project money."

# Wood flooring would have eaten up too much space.







The project saw considerably fewer workers on site than is normally seen with wood or concrete construction.

at the fourth floor," says Ward Bell, Ellisdale Construction, executive VP and COO.

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### **DESIGN**

- 68,809 sq. ft. mixed-use structure
- Subfloor: Garage
- 1st floor (existing): Retail
- 2nd floor (existing): Residential
- 3rd floor (existing): Residential
- 4th floor concrete transfer
- Floors 4-8: Steel-framed residential
- Penthouse: Steel-framed rooftop amenities area

### CONSTRUCTION

- 3-story above grade concrete structure converted to 8 floors using cold-formed steel framing
- Stepped back building for added outdoor space
- Poured transfer slab at Floor 4
- Renovated bottom 2 floors
- Added 5 CFS-framed floors - 4 stories of apartments, 1 rooftop amenities area
- Cantilevered CIP balconies

### **CONSTRUCTION SPEED**

- Exterior CFS panels on the 4 bearing levels erected in 2 months
- 13 weeks from transfer deck to building dry-in

### **CFS-FRAMED PANEL DETAILS**

- •311 CFS-framed exterior wall panels
- Ave. exterior panel: 20' LF X 8' -10" H
- Exterior panels: 43 mil, 54 mil, 68 mil cold-formed steel studs
- Interior panels: 43 mil, 54 mil, 68 mil and 97 mil cold-formed steel studs

### Submit a case study to submissions@BuildSteel.org.

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