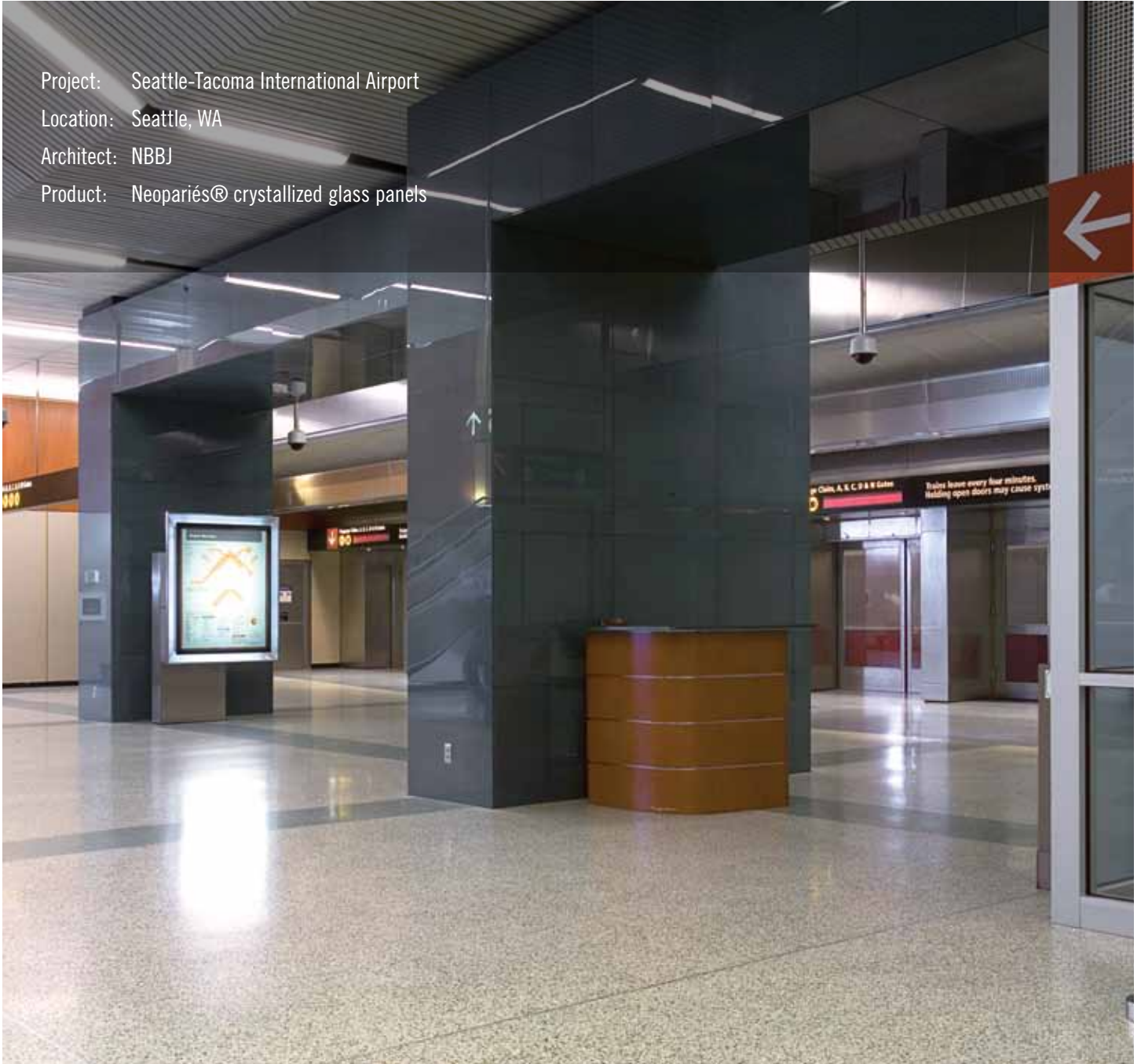




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GLASS STONE PANELS PROVIDE LONG-TERM
DURABILITY UNDER DEMANDING CONDITIONS

Project: Seattle-Tacoma International Airport
Location: Seattle, WA
Architect: NBBJ
Product: Neopariés® crystallized glass panels



Sea-Tac Airport Installation Showcases Performance of Neopariés® Wall Cladding

Airport passenger terminals present architects and building owners with one of the most demanding maintenance environments imaginable. Jostling crowds moving through constrained spaces cause wear and tear on building interior finishes. Passenger terminal walls are particularly susceptible to damage because they are regularly bumped by luggage, baggage carts, strollers and equipment. Wall coverings that look beautiful on opening day can quickly become scuffed or torn, showing their age in only a few years.

In the early 1990s, the Port of Seattle, Washington, began a major overhaul of the passenger terminal concourses at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (Sea-Tac Airport). The port's "Gateway '90" project was designed to modernize Sea-Tac's aging concourses and create more open and convenient walkways and waiting rooms at the passenger gates. Among the host of improvements were upgrades to the airport's subway station in the south satellite, which serves all international arriving passengers.

Every year, more than 29 million air passengers travel through Sea-Tac, the nation's 17th busiest airport. Approximately 3.5 million of them use the south satellite subway station – an average of almost 10,000 passengers per day.

In light of the intense demands placed on the facility, the port sought a column and wall cladding material that would be durable and reduce maintenance costs. According to Keith Gillin, Manager, Architecture and Standards, the port was especially concerned about chipping on the columns in the subway station and on a nearby archway that serves as a welcoming point for arriving international passengers. In addition to durability, the port wanted a material that would be visually appealing and support the project's goal of creating an inviting atmosphere for passengers.

The architects for the Gateway '90 project, Seattle-based NBBJ, recommended what was then a relatively new product in the United States – Neopariés® stone glass panels from Technical Glass Products (TGP), Snoqualmie, Washington.

"We really liked the way the Neopariés looked when it was installed," says the port's Gillin, "and over the years it has held up exceptionally well." He reports that all other wall panels in the area that were covered with durable fabric have been replaced, but the Neopariés has maintained its good looks. The high performance of the Neopariés cladding is demonstrated by the fact that more than 42 million passengers have passed by the columns in the 15 years since the material was installed.

Neopariés is made using a specialized technique of crystallizing glass. The resulting material has a marble-like appearance, but is dramatically stronger than marble or granite and can be used in thinner and lighter

configurations. It can also be shaped into a variety of curved surfaces or used on flat walls in both interior and exterior applications, as well as for interior floors, counters and tabletops. Neopariés is non-porous and not subject to penetration by many staining substances. It is more resistant to acids, alkalis, oils and other chemical substances than either marble or granite and has a unique wipe clean composition that ensures the surface and physical properties do no degrade, even after years of use.

Manufactured by Nippon Electric Glass Company, Ltd., Neopariés is available in seven colors, including white, beige, black and several shades of grey. It is also available in a variety of custom colors. It has been installed in numerous publicly and privately owned buildings around the world.

TGP offers a range of specialty architectural glass products, along with a full line of fire-rated glazing. For more information on Neopariés visit TGP at www.tgpamerica.com. To learn about TGP's fire-rated glass and framing, visit www.fireglass.com.

