Description: The Chicago UNO (United Neighborhood Organization) Charter School is an integral part of the K-11 Hispanic community. Charter schools in the U.S. typically draw on the latest educational techniques to meet the highest academic standards.

Challenge: Just like its educational goals, the design and installation specifications for the UNO school’s roof were exceptionally high. The City of Chicago mandated that 25% of the 35,500 square-foot JM PVC roof be vegetated, while meeting high wind uplift requirements. Due to the complex needs of the project, the roofing contractor developed 10 different value-engineering alternatives for final client approval on this high-profile, LEED®-certified project.

Solution: Chicago architectural firm Wight & Co. relied on the 100 years of technical experience possessed by Olsson Roofing Company Inc. of Aurora, IL, as well as a full line of JM low-slope roofing products and accessories. “Every facet of this job was unique,” says Olsson’s Project Manager Mike Reynolds. “During the pre-construction phase, JM provided the extremely detailed information we needed to meet the building’s stringent wind uplift requirements.” (To illustrate the complexity of the system, see the JM products in the sidebar to the right.)

For the vegetative portion of the roof, cutting edge, vector-mapping technology replaced flood testing to ensure a watertight installation under the vegetative roof system. The vector-mapping mesh was installed in adhesive over the polyiso, followed by a fully adhered JM PVC 80 mil membrane with DuPont® Elvaloy® KEE, and loose laid JM TPO 45 mil membrane as a slip sheet under GreenGrid® pre-vegetated (extensive) roof system.

“High-profile projects in Chicago today require materials with the long-term performance that can withstand the incredibly wide range of weather conditions in this region,” says Reynolds. “Property owners also look for responsive and trustworthy contractors that can partner with manufacturers like JM to deliver what they promise based on their professionalism and experience.”

In executing the contract with the city of Chicago, Olsson roofing partnered with Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises. This partnership worked well and was coordinated seamlessly on the project. “Foreman Tom Caputo did an excellent job tracking the work and managing the installation details, while JM’s Dan Stella provided timely, in-process inspections,” says Reynolds.

Location:
Chicago, IL

Architect & General Contractor:
Wight & Company
Jason Perez

Roofing Contractor:
Olsson Roofing Company Inc.
Bill Lynch, President & Principal
Mike Herlihy, EVP & Principal
Mike Reynolds, Project Manager
JM Peak Advantage® Contractor

Industry Affiliations:
National Roofing Contractors Association

JM Roofing System Solution: (SP6RA)
20-Year JM Peak Advantage® Guarantee
JM PVC 60 mil Membrane, Fully Adhered
ENERGY3® Roof Insulation
JM Invinsa® Roof Board
Green Roof Adds:
Vector-Mapping Mesh Under Cover Board
JM PVC 80 mil Membrane, Fully Adhered
JM TPO 45 mil Membrane, Loose Laid Under GreenGrid® Pre-Vegetated Roof System

*GreenGrid is a trademark of American Builders Contractors Supply Co., Inc.