WILSON DOORS

Case Study
HITN-TV
New York City, NY

TV Studio Tunes into Better Access with Large Doors

Wilson Premier™ Doors Helps the Show Go on for Cable Network

Nearly all activity in the world of television production has to be done with split-second precision. At the HITN-TV production facility one item that shields their production area from bad weather is their large Wilson Premier™ vertical bi-folding doors.

HITN-TV (Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network, Inc.) is a success story in cable television, serving one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in America. The network is available to 90 million householdsð roughly a third of the US populationð reaching mostly customers of direct-broadcast satellite platform Dish Network and through other outlets such as Time-Warner cable, Comcast and AT&T U-Verse TV.

The network was established in 1983 as a private non-profit organization to create a network of non-commercial telecommunications facilities to advance the educational, social, cultural, and economic conditions of the Hispanic Community. They recently boosted production capabilities with the completion of a $12 million, federal grant-funded production facility at the historic Brooklyn Navy Yard in New York City.

This unique network ñeducates and entertains.ò Along with the production of the high volume of original programming offered by HITN-TV, the 21,000 square-foot facility houses the networkôs administrative offices.

The new HITN headquarters are in a renovated warehouse space at the Navy Yard. Philippe Bentegea, the in-house consultant with HITN who oversaw the project notes, ñwe do a lot of production, and had to grow our former space in Manhattan.ò

The arrangement at their former site came with extra steps to their logistics. ñOur old studios,ò recalls Bentegea, ñwere in an office building, located on the third and fourth floors and of course accessible only by elevator.

Bentegea passed along to the contractor very specific project criteria, especially for the two 16ô wide by 24ô high exterior doorways. Along with providing access for production trucks hitting the streets to do remotes, the doors have to provide protection against the elements and some sound attenuation to prevent interference with audio. A third smaller door provides service access to a large air conditioning unit, and according to the architect, acts as a huge ñmoving wall.ò

Wilsonôs Premier doors provide that kind of protection and more. Cognizant of the very large doorway area at the HITN-TV studio, the architect checked out manufacturers of hangar doors and came across the Wilson Premier door on the Internet.

One HITN-TV doorway opens directly to the receiving area, which leads to the large studio and then onto a smaller studio. Along with production trucks, the area also receives flat bed trucks and semitrailers. The production trucks also have satellite dishes mounted on their roofs and need quite a bit of height clearance to make it through the doorway.

Not only does Wilsonôs Premier door provide this clearance, it also provides effective protection from the elements through the natural rubber top seal, combined with neoprene side seals and a natural rubber bottom loop seal. The inside of the HITN-TV facility is heated/air conditioned, so when these very large doors are closed they form a ñrefrigerator tightò seal to prevent the escape of that energy and the entry of street noise.

The door also blocks the entry of intruders. Once the Premier door is closed it is secured by auto locks that pull it shut to prevent forcible entry.

The door provides an excellent barrier for security. The Premier frame is constructed of 6061-T6 aircraft grade aluminum. The aluminum frame is 40% lighter than steel, minimizing stress on the building structure and on the structure of the door itself for longer life and lower lifetime ownership cost.

The frame matches the industrial look of the warehouse, yet the rugged look does not require rigorous maintenance. The raw mill finish pro-

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vides a clean, crisp façade, so HITN-TV does not have to hire a crew every few years to repaint it.

The openings were originally outfitted with rigid windows. With the renovation, the architect wanted to replace the windows with dependable doors that didnôt detract from the buildings look and still allowed natural light to enter the buildings. An additional challenge was adding an element of privacy.

Wilson doors worked with the architect to solve this multi-pronged challenge. The bi-fold doors act as a vertically operating wall rather than a door which melds with the buildings look. Cladding the door with a translucent polycarbonate ñskinò allowed the natural light through, but afforded an acceptable degree of privacy.

The vertical bi-folding door also worked in well with the design of the building, requiring no interior wall space or headroom clearance. In this case, and unlike typical doors, the Premier drive was mounted on the door itself, saving even more wall area and enabling easy servicing when needed.

The unit that powers the Premier door is the Wilson Ascent AC-Drive, engineered for a smooth, soft, start and stop; minimizing wear on the motor and components. Yet the single phase, 230-volt driveôs operation significantly decreases the opening/closing time of the door so crews can spend less time in the garage and more time on the road. The control boxes are wall mounted in the narrow spaces between the doors, and features three button Up/Down/Stop operation.

Just a simple push of a button automatically opens and closes the door. The door is also outfitted with safety photo eyes. Should a vehicle attempt to pass through the doorway while the door is closing it breaks the photo eye beam signaling the door to reverse and hold open until reset.

Passing itôs 25th year serving the needs of Hispanic viewers in the United States and the audience in Puerto Rico, HITN-TV has been all about control of its direction and of its offerings to its audience. With the doors on its Brooklyn Navy Yard location, HITN-TV can better control the traffic, logistics and environment at its headquarters.

Archi-Tec™ Premier™ Door at a Glance

For the door's skin the sky's the limit. Wilson provides the Premier door frame. From there, the architect for the HITN-TV studios can have the moving wall effect to match the look of the historic Brooklyn Navy Yard building. Wilson has manufactured doors to accept glass, translucent plastic, brushed aluminum, stucco, wood facades, and composite concrete.

Architectural aluminum tubing used in the construction of the door. While the tubing can be painted, most customers, as was the case with the HITN-TV studios, choose the weather-defying raw, mill finish for a clean, crisp look.

Refrigerator tight seal. To maintain television production standards, the interior is heated/air-conditioned. These very large doors provide effective protection from the elements and energy loss through the natural rubber top seal combined with neoprene side seals and a natural rubber bottom loop seal.

Door-mounted drive system. Though the drive can be located above the doorway, wall space was very limited, so the drive is attached to the doorsôbottom panel. Besides enabling the doors to fit into the limited wall area the drive positioning enables easy access if servicing is needed.

What kind of controls do you like? Three button operation at the control box? Remote push-button? Keyed entry? Number pad? Swipe card? Wilson can do it all.

Variable-speed AC-Drive. Each door is driven by Wilsonôs Ascent ™ variable-speed AC-Drive smoothly opening and closing the door for quiet and efficient operation.

Installation is as easy as 1-2-3. If the door panels have to be spliced, simple bolted together, modular construction allows for quick and easy installation with no field welding. Wilsonôs trucks deliver the doors with TLC and our driver stays to supervise the installation. This insures the product arrives without damage and is installed properly.

Strength yet less strain on the building. Constructed of 6061-T6 aircraft grade aluminum, the frame is 40% lighter than steel, minimizing stress on the building structure.