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Pittsburgh Corning Offers New Options for Daylighting with Glass Block Solar Wall Tubes

Solar Wall Tubes Allow "Peek-a-boo" Light in Multi-Wythe Walls

PITTSBURGH, Pa. —Pittsburgh Corning, maker of iconic glass block products, is once again offering new daylighting innovations to the architectural market with its newest product, Glass Block Solar Wall Tubes. Available in two standard sizes which can take the place of brick or masonry units to provide an easy and aesthetically pleasing way to let light into any building through a typically thick multi-wythe wall.

"We were approached by several architects looking for a product that would fit in multi-wythe walls, would not require lintels and would increase daylighting without adding additional windows," said Tom Galligan, vice president and general manager of Pittsburgh Corning's Glass Block Division. "We specifically designed Solar Wall Tubes to take the place of a CMU or other nominal masonry unit to allow natural light in without compromising the look and feel of the building."

Unlike loose glass block, Solar Wall Tubes include a sturdy mirrored-finish stainless steel tube that spans the long depth of typical multi-wythe walls and prevents any loading from above the opening, making sure no weight is transferred to the glass block. This design makes them the perfect solution for architects looking to add natural light to any building without compromising structural integrity.

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In addition to increasing natural light, Glass Block Solar Wall Tubes are thermally broken to provide improved thermal performance. Depending on glass type and sealing options, Solar Wall Tubes offer improvements in U-values and R-values over typical glass block and masonry units.

Pittsburgh Corning Solar Wall Tubes are comprised of one or two, hollow or solid, glass blocks assembled at each end of a stainless steel tube with a mirror-like finish to create a heavily reflective inner surface to maximize daylighting. The tubes are assembled in two pieces with a non thermal-conducting material connecting them and wrapped with a rubberized asphaltic material. The stainless steel tubes are non-corrosive and provide long term durability. The Glass Block Solar Wall Tubes come in two standard sizes with various privacy options. Custom sizes are available.

For more information on Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block Solar Wall Tubes or any of their complete line of glass block products visit www.PossibilitiesBegin.com.

About Pittsburgh Corning

Since its inception in 1937, Pittsburgh Corning has manufactured products that help architects turn their visions into inspiring reality. A leading U.S. supplier of building materials, including glass block and FOAMGLAS® insulation, the company has always strived to provide innovative solutions to industry needs.

For more information, visit www.pittsburghcorning.com or www.possibilitiesbegin.com.

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