

May 2013

Large-Format Recycling

Within every historic renovation are modern materials that harmonize a project's past with today's code requirements. These four architects found creative solutions to meet preservation and sustainability guidelines.

By Brian Libby



From left to right: Duncan Hazard, partner, Ennead Architects; Agustin Enriquez V, associate principal, GBD Architects; Daniel Kelley, partner, MGA Partners, and Michael Binette, vice president, The Architectural Team. Illustrations by Peter Arkle



Boston-area firm The Architectural Team (TAT) wanted to preserve the brick walls at Loft Five50, a multifamily housing project converted from the former Malden Mills factories in Lawrence, Mass. To qualify for federal historic-preservation tax incentives, the wall insulation had to be less than 4 inches thick. Spray foam insulation would tightly seal the building envelope, says TAT vice president Mike Binette, AIA, “but then the brick can’t breathe. Moisture in the winter would get inside and freeze.” The solution was a hybrid system coupling spray foam with GreenFiberAll Borate Stabilized Wall Spray Insulation, which helps absorb moisture and contributes to the wall’s R-24 rating.