

BENJAMIN OBDYKE

roof & wall products

A HOME FOR ALL TIME

Georgia green builder's new home pairs Slicker Classic with ZIP System Sheathing to create durable wall assembly

PRODUCT FEATURED: Slicker Classic Rainscreen



Introduction

Most building professionals who construct their own homes will settle for nothing less than the highest quality products. Whether the ultimate goal is to extend a home's lifespan, save money on the energy bill or achieve multiple green building certifications, they know a high-performance build means looking beyond aesthetics to details such as moisture prevention, proper framing technique and even installing termite barriers.

A High-Performance Build

Nationally-recognized green building consultant Carl Seville aimed to check all of these boxes when he set out to build his own new home in Decatur, Georgia in 2016. While navigating local historic commission building codes, Seville focused on exactly how to prepare the two-story craftsman-style home to stand the test of time. Choosing high-performance products for the build was a logical first step.

"We wanted to build a home that was comfortable, efficient and would eliminate potential moisture issues for decades to come," said Seville, who co-founded green building consultancy SK Collaborative after a 25-year career in the remodeling industry. "So many homeowners are used to low-performance houses and many even expect water entry events and mold issues. But I truly believed it was possible to build this wall assembly to last the rest of my lifetime—and the lifetime of the next homeowner—without moisture damage."

To create this type of longevity and ensure the best moisture protection in Georgia's humid climate, Seville specified Benjamin Obdyke Slicker® Classic vented rainscreen over top of ZIP System® Sheathing for the wall assembly. ZIP System sheathing and tape streamlines the weatherization process with an integrated water- and air-resistive barrier that delivers moisture and air protection in one easy-to-install system.

Installing this sheathing allowed Seville to complete the air seal of the entire building envelope before drywall and then conduct a rough stage blower door test for the 2,600 sq. ft. home. The result, an Envelope Leakage Ratio of 0.11 CFM per sq. ft., demonstrated the outstanding air sealant performance of the ZIP System.

Next, Slicker Classic was installed over the sheathing after windows, doors, and all pipes and wires were flashed. The unique, vertically-channeled, three-dimensional matrix of Slicker Classic provides a continuous space for drainage and drying, a thermal break and pressure equalization—eliminating the threat of trapped moisture.





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**Carl Seville,
Principal, SK Collaborative**

Working Hand-in-Glove

Seville believes the two wall products will work hand-in-glove.

“Once it is set, the ZIP System provides both structural sheathing and a weather barrier, which eliminates the need for a housewrap,” explained Seville. “Adding Slicker Classic to the wall assembly was critical to create a space in front of the sheathing that allows bulk water to drain down and moisture vapor to go up and out.”

Once the rainscreen was installed, the house was clad with Boral TruExterior® trim and siding. The coal fly ash composite product also worked well with Slicker Classic.

“Slicker Classic doesn’t compress very easily, which made it simple to tack it up and put the TruExterior siding over top. If you have a clad window, the width of the rainscreen has no effect, so the process was just to put the clad window on followed by the Slicker Classic and then side it.”

Upon completion, Seville’s home was awarded EarthCraft and LEED Platinum certifications, and also became the first house certified under the 2015 National Green Building Standard, all while meeting the strict requirements of the City of Decatur High Performance Building Ordinance. While the home looks traditional from the outside, Seville’s contemporary building practices and decision to invest in high-performance materials will ensure that the home will last for a long time.

“Adding a gap above the sheathing seems like a no brainer to me,” continued Seville. “There’s no better way to reduce capillary action so the water going through the siding doesn’t get sucked into the house. Hopefully, this will be a 100-plus year house.”

About SK Collaborative

SK Collaborative works with developers, builders, remodelers, contractors, architects, and homeowners to implement cost-effective techniques that improve building performance. Their services include consulting, design reviews and charrettes, training, and building certification for single and multifamily buildings under LEED for Homes, EarthCraft House, ENERGY STAR, the National Green Building Standard, and Enterprise Green Communities. SK Collaborative is currently working on projects totaling over 7,000 dwelling units spread across Georgia, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Pennsylvania

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About Benjamin Obdyke

Since 1868, Benjamin Obdyke has been a leading designer and provider of moisture management solutions. Our founder, Benjamin P. Obdyke, pioneered the first-generation corrugated downspout. This innovation ultimately led to the modern day Benjamin Obdyke. Benjamin Obdyke’s pioneering spirit remains the hallmark of our company today.

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