

# Experience. Innovation.

## CASE STUDY

Sacré-Coeur Retreat Center | Peoria, Illinois

### BILCO's Thermally Broken Roof Hatches Add Energy Efficiency to Religious Retreat Center

The Diocese of Peoria, serving Catholics in Illinois since 1875, recently embarked on a transformative project in response to changing demographics and declining Mass attendance. With a reduction in the number of parishes and an evolving community, the diocese sought to rejuvenate its outreach through the development of the Sacré-Coeur Retreat Center. This new facility, situated on a 46-acre site about 30 miles north of Peoria, replaces the outdated Nazareth House and aims to inspire and energize the Catholic community in the heartland.

The \$27 million Sacré-Coeur Retreat Center includes a four-story residence with 70 guest rooms, two chapels, a state-of-the-art conference center and a dining hall that can serve up to 140 people. There are also three one-bedroom suites with a kitchenette. The center's design incorporates modern amenities, such as private bathrooms, individual temperature controls and soundproof walls in guest rooms, alongside outdoor spaces like gardens, walking paths and a fire pit.

The centerpiece is the Chapel of Sacred Heart, designed to accommodate 140 worshipers and featuring stained glass windows, original artwork and a new altar. A two-room building, called "The Solitude of the Sacred Heart," offers a place for quiet prayer and reflection.

A critical aspect of the construction was selecting durable and energy-efficient building components, especially in its roofing materials. Western Specialty Contractors installed a combination of Carlisle White 60-mil Thermoplastic Polyolefin (TPO) and CertainTeed Northgate Shingles in the Weathered Wood color. The TPO roofing, spanning 22,077 square feet, reflects heat to maintain cooler building temperatures, while the CertainTeed shingles provide Class 4 impact resistance to withstand hail.

BILCO's contribution to this project included two thermally broken roof hatches, safety railings and LadderUP® safety posts. One hatch is on the main roof, and the other is on a pump house. The hatches' R-20+ insulation minimizes heat transfer, resists harmful condensation and provides superior energy efficiency. The LadderUP® safety posts improve rooftop access safety, reflecting the project's commitment to long-term functionality and safety for maintenance workers accessing the hatches.



"The LadderUP® safety posts make the hatch much safer," said Jared Osterman, Assistant Branch Manager for Western Specialty Contractors. "It's a great feature to include them on projects because it makes it far easier to climb out. We install the BILCO products on a lot of our projects."

BILCO's products were chosen for their quality, superior safety features and energy efficiency. The thermally broken roof hatches align with the project's goals of reducing energy costs and providing reliable performance. Additionally, the LadderUP® safety posts contribute to safer access to the rooftops, addressing the increasing frequency of hailstorms and the need for robust, durable roofing solutions.

The Sacré-Coeur Retreat Center represents a significant investment in the future of the Diocese of Peoria, aiming to revitalize the region's Catholic community. With its modern facilities and thoughtful design, the center is poised to become a hub for worship, reflection and community engagement. The incorporation of advanced roofing solutions and BILCO's specialized access products shows the commitment to both safety and energy efficiency, ensuring the retreat center's longevity and functionality for years to come.

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