

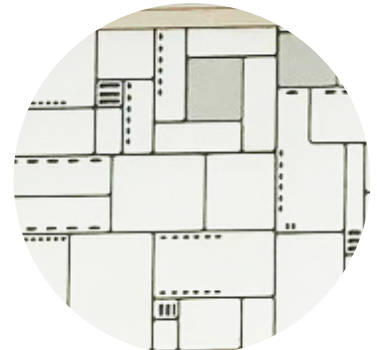


## PROJECT PROFILE

# ANDERSON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## Collaborative Unique Designs

The [Anderson Institute of Technology](#) is the brainchild of three school districts in Anderson, SC to offer students an innovative, contextual, project-based learning environment. "This initiative was such a unique and forward-thinking proposition in that three disparate school districts came together to envision and create a learning institution focused on preparing our high school students for in-demand, 21st century careers," commented Michael Chewning, Associate Principal with the Institute's selected architectural firm, [McMillan Pazdan & Smith Architecture](#). "This focus towards a more hands-on learning environment challenged us to design the necessary infrastructure, flexible enough to accommodate up to 16 different career clusters, ranging from veterinary science to welding to aerospace," added Chewning.



Close-up of wall panel

A core design tenant the stakeholders insisted upon was that the building had to project a high-tech persona. While district leaders awarded the design work to McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture of Spartanburg, SC, the task of overseeing the construction of this new 145,000 SF facility went to HG Reynolds Company of Aiken, SC.

McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture approached [Edon Composites](#) with a design for a unique, custom exterior wall panel system. The high-tech inspired design called for a variety of colors while creating a facade that concealed the incidence of repeating patterns. "Prior to this project, I had not specified FRP before, but because of the design, there was really no other material that could create the shape, look and depth we wanted to achieve," said Chewning. Edon worked closely with McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture to develop the final mold shapes that not only captured and adhered to the same unique design, but more importantly minimized mold use and cost. Edon then custom fabricated the tooling and final panels to create the unique façade.

"This was our first time working with FRP materials," said Leland Reynolds, one of the principals at [HG Reynolds](#). "We have a pretty unique philosophy as a builder in that architects tend to call on our expertise in the latter stages of the design process, so we were involved with Edon well before the panels were actually fabricated," added Reynolds. "We had some initial challenges with the panel design, but Edon worked quickly with us to solve any issues, which is about all you can ask from a manufacturer." The New Anderson Institute of Technology opened in late August 2019 to 625 eager students.

Project: [Anderson Institute of Technology](#), Anderson, SC  
Architect: [McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture](#), Spartanburg, SC  
Contractor: [HG Reynolds Company](#), Aiken, SC  
Sector(s) & Products: Education, Wall Panels

