

A photograph of the Maine Savings Amphitheater, a modern building with a complex, angular design. The building features extensive use of light-colored, horizontal PVC cladding that mimics the texture of wood. Large glass windows are visible on the lower levels, reflecting the sky. The building is set against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

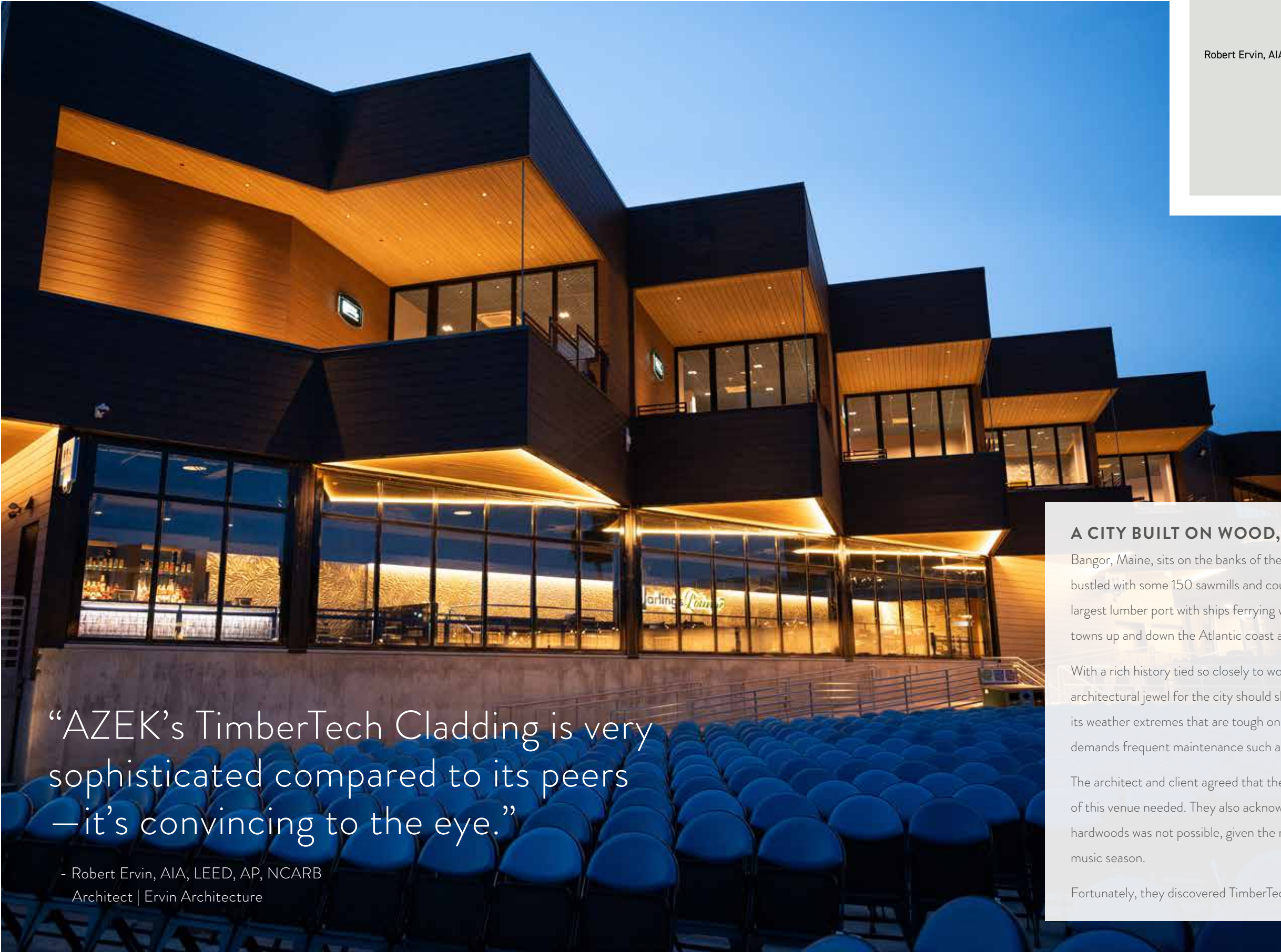
MAINE SAVINGS AMPHITHEATER

CASE STUDY

TIMBERTECH
ADVANCED
PVC CLADDING

AZEK[®]
EXTERIORS

TimberTech[®]
BY **AZEK**[®]



Architect
Robert Ervin, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB

Contractor
Nathan Johndro

Project Location
Bangor, Maine

“AZEK’s TimberTech Cladding is very sophisticated compared to its peers —it’s convincing to the eye.”

- Robert Ervin, AIA, LEED, AP, NCARB
Architect | Ervin Architecture

A CITY BUILT ON WOOD, A VENUE BUILT ON TIMBERTECH

Bangor, Maine, sits on the banks of the Penobscot River where, in the 19th century, the city bustled with some 150 sawmills and countless docks. At the time, Bangor was the world’s largest lumber port with ships ferrying wood from Maine’s vast forests to build cities and towns up and down the Atlantic coast and as far away as California and even China.

With a rich history tied so closely to wood, it was natural that a new amphitheater and architectural jewel for the city should showcase the beauty of wood. But Maine is famous for its weather extremes that are tough on exterior hardwood. And wood cladding by its nature demands frequent maintenance such as sanding and staining to keep its day-one appearance.

The architect and client agreed that the look of premium wood was what the aesthetics of this venue needed. They also acknowledged that the ongoing maintenance of exterior hardwoods was not possible, given the realities of Maine’s climate and the busy music season.

Fortunately, they discovered TimberTech Advanced PVC Cladding.





Many success factors came together for this large outdoor performance venue. The beauty and functionality of the venue and its TimberTech Cladding were at the top.

THE CLIENT

Alex Gray, the owner of Waterfront Concerts, is an operator of multiple concert venues in New England with a background in engineering and construction management in addition to performance venue management. The Amphitheater project's principal driver was anything that would create the best customer experience, from seating and sightlines, to food and beverage service, to premium suites, to sound and video technology.

As the Amphitheater would hold a number of patrons equivalent to about half of Bangor's population, being a good neighbor was also crucial. TimberTech Cladding was selected as it met the many requirements to support the overall project, including low maintenance, acoustic-friendly characteristics, severe-weather capability, cost-effectiveness, and straightforward material installation and repair.



"We joke that most warranties contain the caveat 'except for Maine'. Our weather is tough. That isn't the case with TimberTech Cladding, and we aren't seeing any pigmentation change."

Alex Gray
Waterfront Concerts



THE ARCHITECT

Design and construction management was done by Ervin Architecture of Portland, Maine, whose principal, Robert Ervin, AIA, NCARB, is a Bangor native. His firm's designs are varied, but generally experiential, beautiful, modern expressions of grand living and relaxation. They are also environmentally forward-thinking and use materials that help fulfill all of the design objectives. His practice spans residential and commercial, with a significant niche in hospitality and performance venues.

His vision for the Amphitheater project was to meet the client's priorities and create the best concert-goer experience through acoustics, sightlines, and comfort. As with all Ervin Architecture projects, the Amphitheater would be beautiful—an architectural example of music frozen in time. TimberTech Cladding was a highly visible part of the design. In addition to the hyper-realistic wood look, TimberTech contributed to the sustainability, acoustics, and weatherability of the structure.

“TimberTech values design. It is the most believable PVC or composite board I’ve ever seen. It’s artfully done.”

Robert Ervin
Architect | Ervin Architecture



THE CARPENTRY CONTRACTOR

Nathan Johndro is a second-generation carpenter who started in the trade at the age of 12. Some 25 years later, his firm and crew of six were responsible for the installation of TimberTech Cladding in the Amphitheater project. Working outdoors in Maine's colder months and high up on scissor lifts presented challenges. Nate

explained that the TimberTech material itself was easy to work with, cut, and fasten using Cortex® fasteners. All in all, Nate was impressed with the simplicity of installation and the overall look of the completed job. “A good carpenter can pick up the proper installation of TimberTech Cladding quickly—I know I did.”



View the
amphitheater
project video





“The Vintage line checked all the boxes.”

Robert Ervin
Architect | Ervin Architecture



➤ The venue owner focused on operational issues such as sightlines, acoustics, premium experience, and low maintenance. TimberTech Cladding worked with his vision in part because he “never wanted to paint (the venue) in his lifetime.”

SUPERIOR SIGHTLINES

The Amphitheater’s design had a “no bad seat in the house” objective, using angles and elevations to create stage views superior to other venues. TimberTech delivered an eye-pleasing façade for the boxes that were sawtooth angled to give unobstructed views from each box.

ACOUSTICS

The structure’s design, materials, and below-grade plan created excellent listening for audiences while minimizing excessive sound to neighboring residents. While not its primary purpose, TimberTech Cladding provided an acoustically dense surface, installed with small gaps between boards and an acoustic-absorptive surface behind to reduce sound refraction.

LOW MAINTENANCE

The venue’s maintenance season is also its performance season, so ongoing maintenance such as painting and staining had to be avoided or eliminated. TimberTech material science delivers an Advanced PVC surface that needs no painting, sanding, or sealing in its lifetime, without sacrificing aesthetics.

PREMIUM APPEARANCE

The entire venue should be beautiful, reflecting the city’s lumber traditions, with the deluxe club boxes exuding a distinctive, luxurious feel. TimberTech delivered the industry’s most realistic exotic hardwood appearance. The architect appreciated the color variety and accuracy.

DURABILITY & LONGEVITY

A 40-year or longer lifespan was anticipated. As an outdoor setting, performance in Maine’s weather extremes was essential, avoiding natural wood’s fading and patination. TimberTech is backed by a Commercial Limited Warranty and Fade-and-Stain Warranty that support the architect’s specified expected lifespan of the project.

SUSTAINABILITY

Eco-consciousness must exist in all aspects of the structure, from building materials to water and energy use. TimberTech delivered a U.S.-made product with high recycled content, superior carbon impact over tropical hardwoods, no need for VOC-rich coatings or stains, and end-of-life recyclability through the FULL-CIRCLE Recycling® Program.



TimberTech
PVC CLADDING
BY AZEK



TimberTech Cladding delivers the full natural color variation and grain pattern without the laborious, costly, and constant upkeep required with traditional lumber. Many choices in colors, widths, and installation profiles are available to fulfill most any design requirements. The warm beauty of natural wood combined with the high performance and environmental consciousness of Advanced PVC come together in TimberTech Cladding. The Amphitheater project used 80,000 square feet of Cladding in Coastline®, Dark Hickory, and English Walnut®. Smaller details also used Weathered Teak® and Mahogany.



COASTLINE®



ENGLISH WALNUT®



WEATHERED TEAK®



MAHOGANY



DARK HICKORY



CYPRESS®

TimberTech's Advanced PVC Vintage Collection® captures the complex, multi-tonal colors and textures for the high-end, sophisticated look and exotic hardwood aesthetic that this project specified. The rich color palette replicates the sought-after looks of premium hardwoods such as ipe, mahogany, and teak. The Amphitheater used five Vintage colors in varying board widths. With Advanced PVC, there is no organic material to rot or deteriorate. In addition to no wood fiber being used, the recycled content of Vintage as of 2023 is approximately 60% and growing. As moisture has little to no effect on the material, TimberTech offers a 30-year Commercial Limited Warranty plus Fade and Stain Warranty.

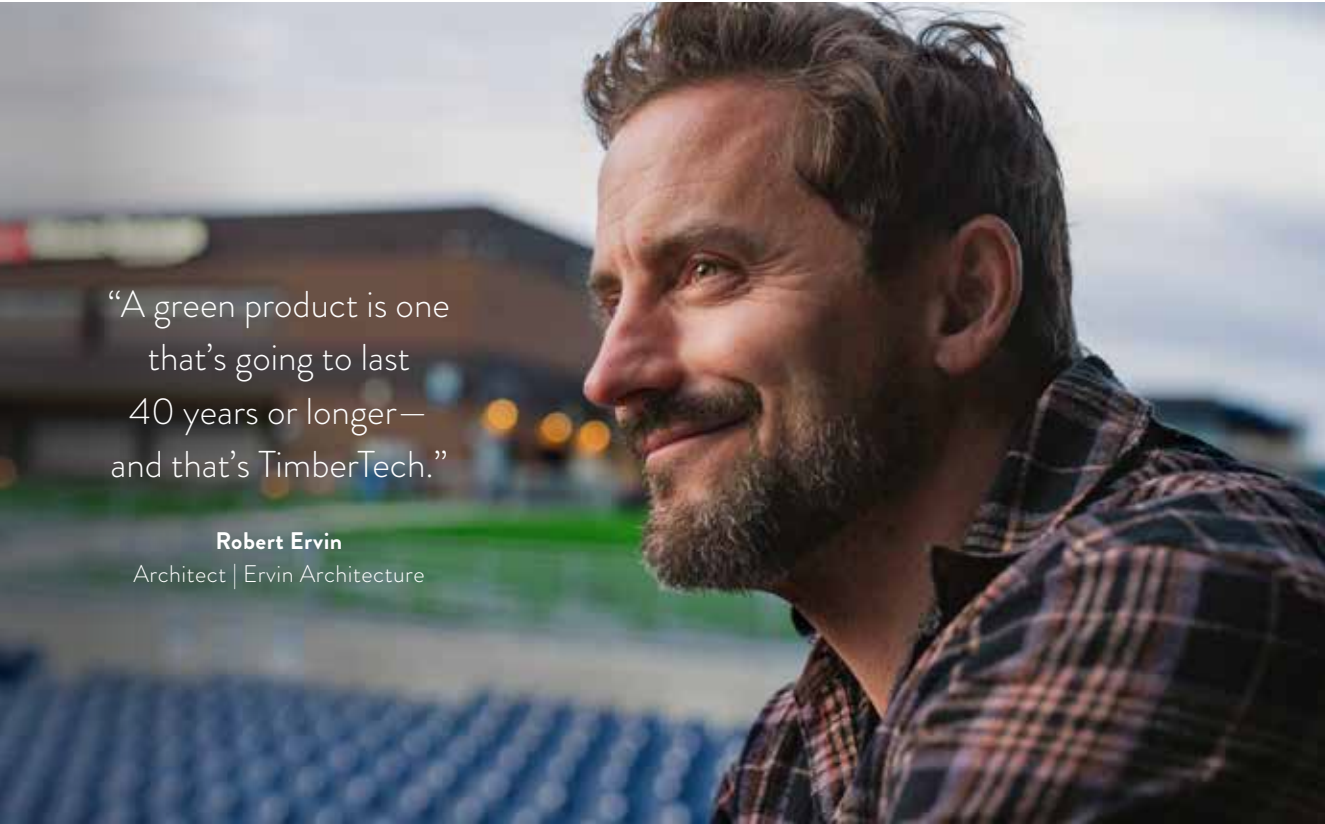


CORTEX® FASTENING SYSTEM

Cortex® fasteners for AZEK Trim and TimberTech Cladding are a part of a concealed fastening system. It consists of a countersunk screw and custom bit that creates a round hole to be filled with an exact-size plug made of either TimberTech Cladding or ready-to-paint PaintPro® Trim material. The grip is stronger than nails and eliminates the need to caulk, sand, and paint nail holes. Plugs come in collated strips and tap in easily for speedy finishing work.



Product details and Cladding samples



“A green product is one that’s going to last 40 years or longer — and that’s TimberTech.”

Robert Ervin
Architect | Ervin Architecture

SUSTAINABILITY FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Project architect Robert Ervin is “deeply, deeply concerned” about climate change and the role that construction and manufacturing plays in affecting those changes. Architects, through their designs and materials specifications, can be at the forefront of forestalling or even reversing the trends.

For the Amphitheater project, Ervin considered water conservation, energy conservation, renewable content, and recycled content. TimberTech Cladding added significantly to the project’s sustainability profile with no compromise to the aesthetics of the design. The high recycled content of the cladding—approximately 60%—reduced both energy and net-new petroleum use compared to virgin materials. TimberTech U.S. production facilities recycle some 99% of internally generated scrap and 96% of the water used in manufacturing. Scrap collection at over 1000 sites contributes to the more than 2.1 billion pounds of waste and scrap recycled since 2019.

INDUSTRY RECOGNITION

TimberTech, AZEK Exteriors, and their parent, The AZEK Company are recognized for their commitment to revolutionizing outdoor living to create a more sustainable future.



Carbon Consciousness

Building materials have an environmental impact at every stage of their use, from design and manufacturing to installation, maintenance, and end-of-life recovery. Architects seek to reduce embodied carbon in the structures they design. So, AZEK commissioned Lifecycle Assessment studies (LCAs) to quantify the environmental impact of TimberTech Decking (Cladding) versus traditional wood. TimberTech outperformed both sustainably harvested ACQ-treated pine and ipe tropical hardwood on a 100-year total Global Warming Potential (GWP) basis. Details available on request.

TIMBERTECH ADVANCED PVC*

26%
lower lifecycle carbon footprint
vs. pine decking

89%
lower lifecycle carbon footprint
vs. Brazilian tropical ipe decking

2.1B+ LBS
of waste and scrap diverted
from landfills and oceans since 2019

3M+ TREES
saved since 2001 by homeowners choosing
TimberTech Decking and Cladding over wood



1,000+ BINS
Our AZEK FULL-CIRCLE Recycling® bins are located at build sites and across the US, collecting and repurposing post-consumer and post-industrial PVC scrap

*According to life cycle assessment studies commissioned by The AZEK Company, independently performed by Sphera and ACV Brasil, combined with company estimates assuming 60% recycled material in TimberTech Advanced PVC decking.



The AZEK Company is a Gold member of the US Green Building Council and is pleased to support project teams working to attain LEED certification. Find our LEED Playbook and more on sustainability here.





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- AIA HSW/LU CE hour
 - 1 OAA structured learning hour

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ADDITIONAL CASE STUDIES



ILLINOIS NEW CONSTRUCTION

A contemporary design for new infill construction in a traditional, upscale neighborhood complements its surroundings with the natural wood look of TimberTech Cladding.



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A historic restoration of a nineteenth century church spire, completed with low-maintenance AZEK PVC Sheet and Trim, based on hundred-year-old photos of a spire that no one living had ever seen.



PENTWATER YACHT CLUB

A commercial club, restaurant, and gathering place built new on pilings over the lake features a full AZEK Exteriors wrap and two-level TimberTech deck.

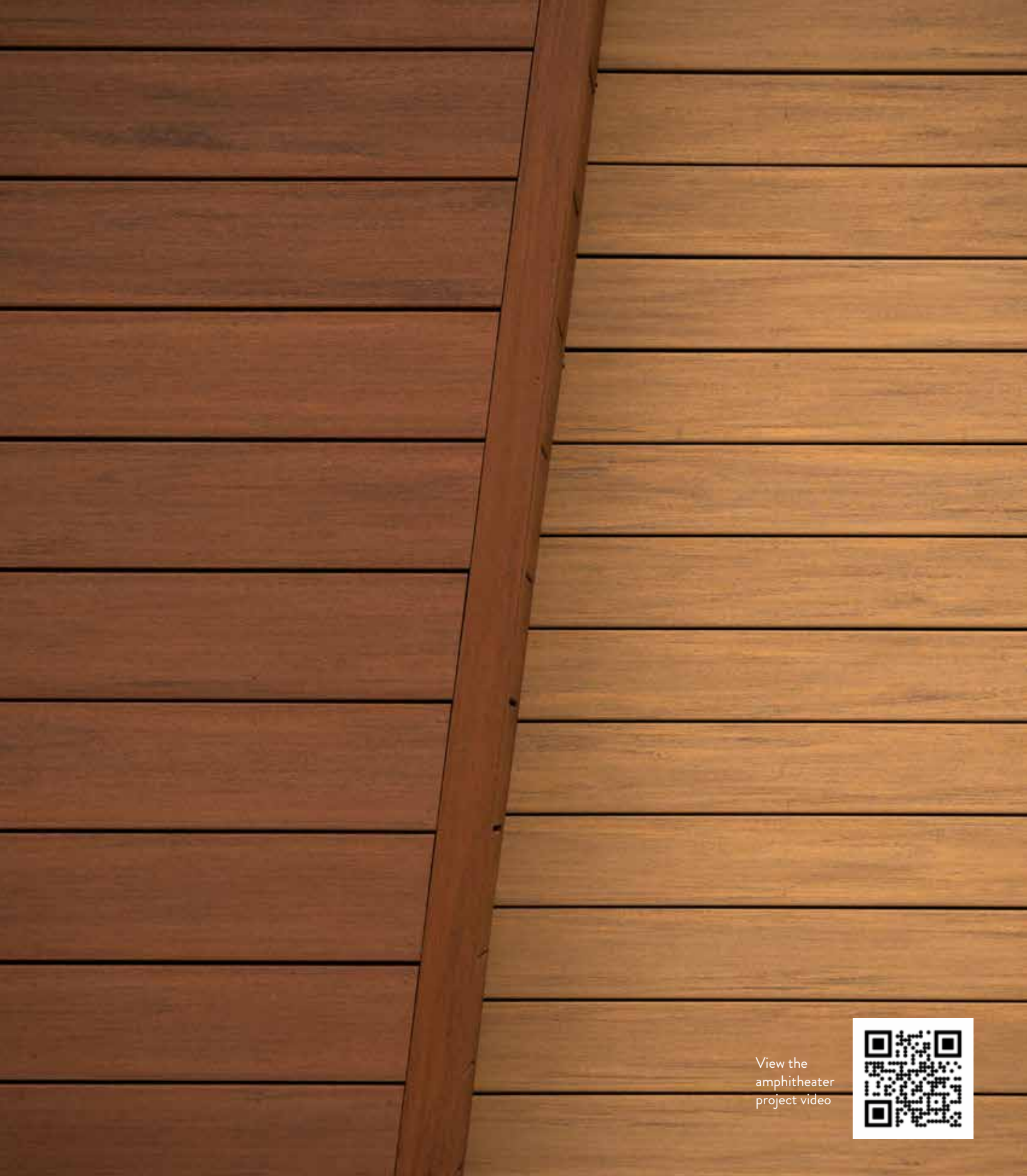


MINNESOTA RESIDENCE REDESIGN

An architect's own home renovation brought this 1920s structure into 21st-century functionality and redefined the original façade with modern design and materials.



Find these case
studies and more
resources for
architects



View the
amphitheater
project video

