PROJECT CASE STUDY / UNIVERSITY · STAINLESS STEEL RAILING

We Installed It Before the Concrete Was There.

UCSD North Campus Wedge, Phase 3 · University of California, San Diego, La Jolla
Prime Contractor: Built Pacific, Inc. · Design, fabrication and installation by In-Line



North Campus Wedge, mid-construction. **#4 brushed stainless stair railing**, fabricated in the In-Line shop in Ramona and set on a site that was still being poured around it.

OWNER
University of California, San Diego

PRIME CONTRACTOR
Built Pacific, Inc.

IN-LINE ROLE
Design, fabrication and installation

MATERIALS
#4 brushed stainless & galvanized steel

FABRICATION
In-Line's own shop, Ramona

RESULT
Complete, and the University was delighted

THE PROBLEM NOBODY PUTS IN A SPECIFICATION

Railing goes in after the concrete. That is the sequence, it is in every schedule, and it exists for one reason: **you cannot set a handrail to a finished surface that has not been poured yet.**

On the North Campus Wedge, In-Line was **directed to proceed before the concrete was in.**

Think about what that actually asks of a crew. Every base plate has to land on a surface whose final elevation is a number on a drawing. Every post has to be plumb to a grade that does not exist. Every run has to hold a consistent height above a stair nosing that is still formwork. And stainless does not forgive: you cannot heat it, bend it back, or grind a mark out of a #4 finish to fix a mistake.

Most subcontractors do one of two things here. They refuse and take the schedule fight, or they install it anyway and hand the problem to whoever comes next.

In-Line did neither. We set the work to the design elevations, held it, documented the conditions, and **re-aligned what needed re-aligning once the concrete was down** — including a marked-up re-alignment at Stair No. 1 that is still in the project file. The extra work was priced, submitted and agreed. Nobody argued, and nobody got left holding it.

The general contractor asked us to do the hardest possible version of our own job. We said yes, and then we made it come out right.

WHAT IN-LINE DELIVERED

Two railing systems, two materials, one subcontractor — designed, drawn, fabricated and installed.

Stainless

#4 brushed stair railing, fabricated in house

Galvanized

Stair railing to match the architecture

- **#4 brushed stainless steel stair railing** — round tube, flanged bases, continuous graspable handrail, fabricated and finished in In-Line's own shop.
- **Galvanized steel stair railing** where the design called for it, including the stair landing connections.

- **Complete shop drawings** — stainless details, galvanized details, handrail details and scale drawings, developed by In-Line and submitted for the architect's review.
- **Field verification and re-alignment** after the concrete was placed, documented and priced.
- **Field changes and RFI resolution**, including the galvanized railing connection at the stair landing.

SCOPE AT A GLANCE

#4 brushed stainless | Stainless stair railing | Galvanized stair railing | In-house fabrication | Shop drawings | Field re-alignment | Out-of-sequence install | Prevailing wage

WHY THE STAINLESS MATTERED

A #4 brushed finish is a directional satin grain. It is chosen because it looks like money, and it behaves accordingly.

It cannot be touched up. A scratch is not a blemish — it is a break in the grain that the eye finds from across a courtyard, in raking light, permanently. On a job where the crew is working around wet concrete, rebar, forms, and every other trade on a live university campus, **keeping a satin finish unmarked is most of the work.**

In-Line fabricated and finished it in its own shop in Ramona — one set of hands on the grain, consistent across every component that would end up beside another component — then protected it through transport, staging and an installation sequence that had been turned upside down.

This is what working in stainless actually involves.

2
Railing systems, two materials

1
Shop — drawn, fabricated, finished, installed

0
Scratches acceptable on a #4 finish

100%
Complete in the first billing period

In-Line's first application for payment on this contract certified the stainless and galvanized stair railing lines **100% complete**. Prevailing wage; 10% retention.

THE RESULT

The railing went in, the alignment came right, and **the University loved it.**

UC San Diego has brought In-Line back repeatedly since — the RIMAC Annex stainless cable railing, the Mesa Housing pedestrian and bicycle bridge, and work contracted directly with the Regents.

Anybody can install railing when the schedule behaves. We would rather be the subcontractor you call when it does not.

GIVE US YOUR STAINLESS

Here is the offer, stated plainly, to every general contractor reading this.

Hand In-Line the whole stainless scope and stop managing it. Not the supply. Not the install. All of it — the detailing, the shop drawings, the fabrication, the finish, the protection, the sequencing conversation, and the installation.

- **We fabricate and finish in our own shop.** One grain, one standard, every component matching every other component. No supplier to blame and no finish argument.
- **We install what we build.** There is no handoff, so there is no dispute about whether it left the shop marked or arrived marked. It is ours from drawing to handover.
- **We price the protection.** Wrapping, staging, sequencing and keeping other trades off it are in the bid, not discovered halfway through the job.
- **We work out of sequence when you need us to.** This project is the proof. We would rather solve it than send a letter.
- **We work in everything else too** — hot-dip galvanized, powder coat over galvanizing, aluminium, ornamental tube steel, cable and structural glass — so when stainless is the wrong answer, we will tell you that instead of selling it to you.

- **We are certified, bonded, signatory, and safe.** DBE · SBE · SLBE · SB · HUBZone · SBA 8(a). Union affiliated, Local 89 & Local 12. CSLB C-13, C-51, C-32. Bonded through Old Republic Surety, rated A+ XV. **EMR 0.68.**

The University of California, community college districts, school districts, cities, counties, Caltrans, transit agencies, utilities, the FAA and four branches of the armed services. One standard.

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