

PROJECT PROFILE



500 Mercer Street Condominium Complex Seattle, Washington

Challenge: Diversity of unit floor plans Solution: Alcan Cable's MODEX™ Modular Wiring Systems



CHRIS WILSON
PROJECT
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SEQUOYAH ELECTRIC

In Seattle, where artistic expression and individualism define the culture, a condominium complex where almost every room has a different layout is a perfect fit. If you are a Seattle artist looking for a unique place to live, the 500 Mercer Street condominium project – 98 units in 38 distinct designs – is a dream. If you're a contractor tasked with laying electrical cable through such a diverse collection of layouts, it is something entirely different.

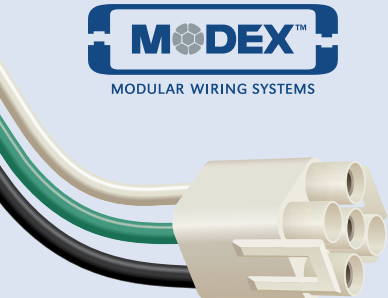
When Chris Wilson of Sequoyah Electric took on electrical design and installation at 500 Mercer Street, he knew there would be challenges presented by the complexity of the project. Beyond the smorgasbord of layout options, there were also three floors of parking and one floor of retail and foodservice. Chris knew from experience that a project with this degree of structural variation was going to require a lot of design-side focus to prevent surprises and setbacks during installation – enter Alcan Cable and their MODEX™ prefabricated wiring system.

According to Chris, MODEX was a perfect fit for Sequoyah's planning-intensive approach. "This definitely wasn't the kind of project where electricians could stand in a room, scratch their heads and

eyeball a solution. The diversity of layout meant everything had to be extremely well mapped out beforehand. Because we were so involved with design on this one, we decided to engage Alcan on the front end and use MODEX to save time and effort on the back. The results were fantastic."

Alcan Cable's MODEX modular wiring systems are designed, pre-assembled and packaged with drawings to eliminate on-site guesswork and enable simple, quick and accurate installation. Everything from junction boxes and branch wiring to receptacles and cover plates are pre-cut to fit, bundled, labeled and delivered ready to go. From there, five-pin and quick-snap connectors further expedite the installation process.

Mercer Street
Condominium Complex





“MODEX is certainly a high quality product in terms of materials and manufacturing, but the real benefits come from how quickly, easily and accurately things get done.

After the initial design work with Alcan, MODEX™ sped up the wiring of the Mercer Street condos considerably,” says Wilson. The fact that MODEX systems are also Underwriters Laboratory listed means they also speed up inspections and result in a higher draw for the contractor at the rough-in stage of the project.

Alcan’s MODEX process is simple.

- Electrical contractor submits electrical drawings and a completed Contractor Info Sheet to Alcan
- Alcan provides system design diagrams and a listing of assembly buildups
- Contractor approves and faxes final drawings to Alcan
- Alcan builds the order per the contractor-approved builder cut sheets and delivers the wiring and assemblies in boxes that are marked to facilitate installation room-by-room

The electrical demands of each room, and locations of receptacles, lighting and appliances, are taken into account during the design process, and selection, cutting and fitting of components is completed on the front-end. When the MODEX assemblies arrive on site, it’s just a matter of matching packages to rooms.

“Trim devices, plugs and switches all come measured, cut and pre-assembled. The wire goes in faster, the boxes go in faster, and it eliminates the manual termination of wires at each box. Even when you factor in more work in the design stage, MODEX results in faster project execution overall – with fewer headaches,” says Wilson.

“Even when there were surprises and challenges, Alcan was there to assist. They didn’t just make the delivery and disappear. From hot-tests to project support they were on site when we needed them. And I have to say that we had no issues whatsoever in terms of the quality of the materials. The connectors are all set up so they only go together one way: the right way. When we turned things on they worked.”

In the end, 3,587 MODEX assemblies were used at 500 Mercer Street. And as a result, Chris is a convert. “Considering the quality of materials, level of service and the time savings for my team, I would work with Alcan and use MODEX again. In fact, I’m using it on a 38-story residential project right now. I’ll let you know how it goes.”



For more information
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