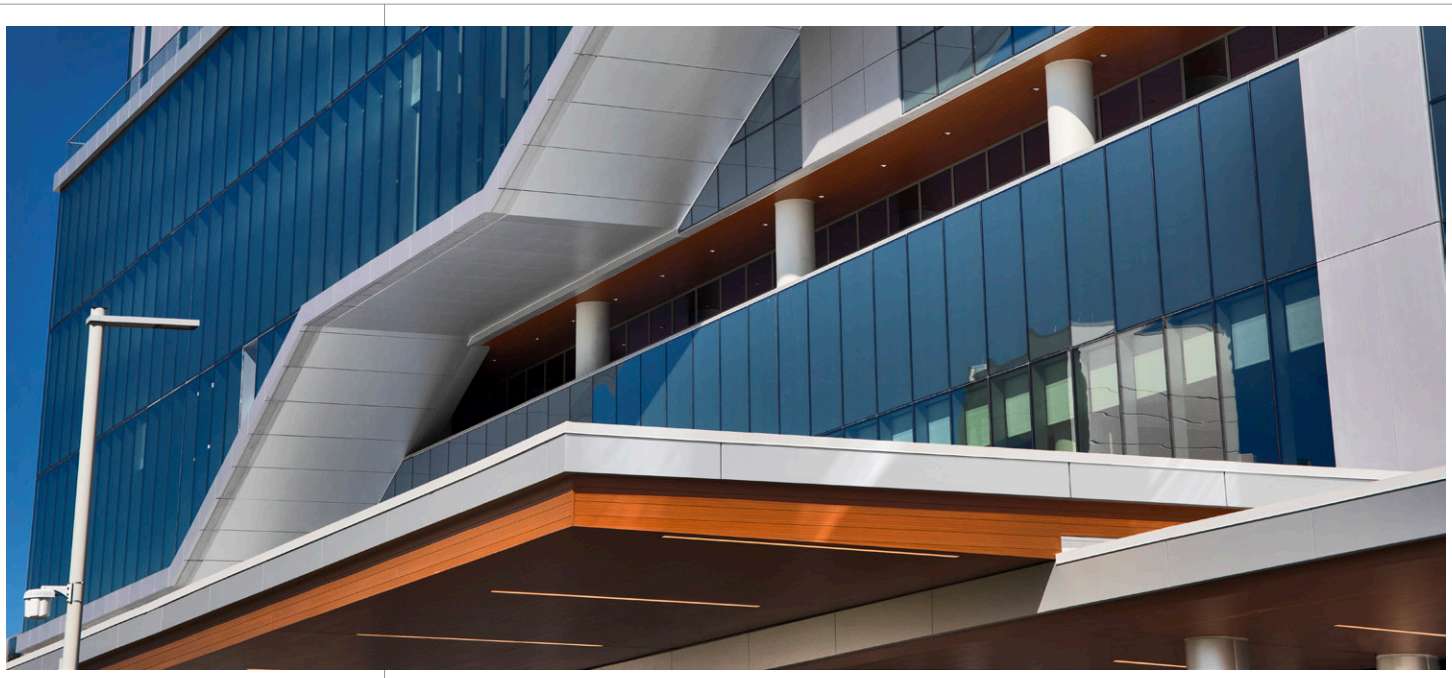
KISTLER

SoLé Mia

When Experience Takes Over



Project: SoLé Mia

Location: North Miami, Florida

Building Type:
University of Miami Health System outpatient care center

Architect: CallisonRTKL

General Contractor: Robins & Morton

Installation Partner: All System Company

Scope:

- Approximately 66,000 SF of exterior cladding and soffit work
- Alucobond ACM cladding at 19,279 SF
- Longboard V-Groove 22,191 SF in wood-grain finish
- Longboard Link & Lock 19,438 SF in wood-grain finish
- PAC-CLAD single skin 5,146 SF
- Field measurement, fabrication, and installation support

RETHINKING THE MATERIAL TO DELIVER THE LOOK

The design team at SoLé Mia knew the look they wanted. A significant section of the soffit called for a wood-grain finish using aluminum composite material (ACM), a product Kistler works with every day. The problem wasn't the product or system; it was that none of the available finishes quite fit the look the client was looking for.

The Kistler team offered multiple wood-grain options from several ACM manufacturers, but none offered the specific color and shading the architect and ownership wanted. It created a stumbling block in an otherwise smoothly running build. If material approval went unresolved, the project would start experiencing compounding delays.

Rather than continuing to search for an ACM finish that wasn't getting approved, the Kistler team proposed changing the material itself.

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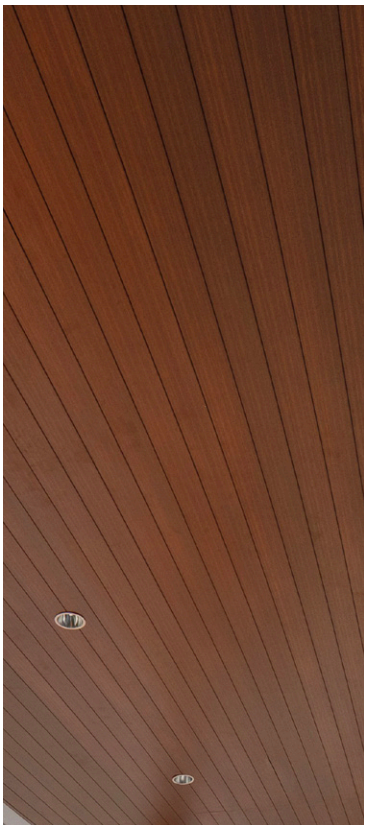
WHAT ELSE COULD WORK?

Kistler has long experience with Longboard, an extruded aluminum plank system available in a much broader palette of wood-grain finishes. It was a significant departure from the original design. Instead of fabricated ACM panels, Longboard uses interlocking extruded aluminum planks, creating a different profile and aesthetic. The look is quite different from one material to the other. But the color, finish, and final effect felt like a better fit.

Kistler brought the alternative to the owner, architect and contractor team, and they liked it. Maybe better than the original plan.

The building also happened to be exceptionally well suited to the product with its long, sweeping lines. Longboard's 24-foot stock lengths accentuated the shape and sight-lines of the soffit, while the wood-grain texture created the softer, inviting look the architect had envisioned.

The new approach gave the design team the wood-grain appearance they had been looking for while allowing the project to keep moving. Making such a dramatic material change this late in the process is unusual, but Kistler's teams are designed to shift gears when needed to make sure the final result is right.



BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL PLAN

The finished project delivered something that wasn't in the original drawings, but gave the team an outcome they preferred even more.

All told, Kistler completed approximately 66,000 square feet of work over about 14 months. The project was later recognized with the Award of Excellence in the Commercial category at Longboard's Inaugural Architectural Excellence Awards in 2026 for projects in the 2025 calendar year.

The lesson is that expertise and experience matter most when the original plan stops working.
For Adam York, Senior Project Manager at Kistler, SoLé Mia has become an example he continues to share internally.

"Experience gives you a bag of tricks," Adam says. "Sometimes it's something you've done before. Sometimes it's a product you've worked with on another project. And sometimes it's knowing who within the company has the experience to help you find the right solution."

That collective experience is part of what allows Kistler to operate as one team. The knowledge needed to solve a problem may come from a project manager, an installer, a drafter or someone who has worked with a different material on a different type of building. Because that experience is shared across the company, the team can draw on more than the knowledge of the people assigned to a single project.

Though Kistler was hired to execute the exterior façade scope, the collective expertise also gave the team the flexibility to work the problem, understand the available alternatives and bring a workable solution to the table. On SoLé Mia, that experience turned what could have remained a problem into an opportunity to make the project better.