



Blessed Stanley Rother Shine

A Brava Case Study





Standing tall as a majestic beacon of faith, the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine is the largest Catholic church in the state of Oklahoma, with its sprawling roof, dual towers, and signature massive dome visible even from the nearby interstate. Built over the course of four years, this awe-inspiring site serves as a resource for the entire Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, welcoming thousands of worshippers of all denominations from around the globe.

When the Archdiocese first resolved to honor the life of the beloved martyr and missionary Blessed Stanley Rother (1935-1981), the first U.S.-born priest ever to be beatified, it envisioned a grand yet tranquil place of pilgrimage and prayer, of reflection and rejuvenation, of congregation and celebration. This devout desire was the catalyst for a dynamic collaboration between the client and the architects, engineers, construction and building managers, and roofing contractor — all of whom had to bring no less than their A-game long before the ground was even broken. With a building envelope of 43,000 square feet that resides on 56 acres, the spectacular white stucco Shrine is located directly in the heart of Oklahoma City, an area known for severe weather — damaging hail, crippling ice, blazing heat — and which also happens to be one of the largest tornado-prone locations in the country.

When combined with the project's ambitious plans, which called for a roof spanning no less than 6,000 square feet that would capture the look of authentic Spanish tile while providing

durable, long-lasting protection, it was clear early on that BRAVA would be the best, if not only, roofing manufacturer that could meet the client's needs.

A BUILD FOR THE AGES

In the beginning stages of design and early building consultations, it was soon obvious to all that this large-scale roofing project was far more complex than a typical installation, and was facing a number of highly intricate challenges.

A top requirement from the Archdiocese was for the Shrine to mirror the Spanish mission style of Saint James the Apostle Catholic Church in Guatemala, where Blessed Stanley had faithfully served. This meant replicating the look of authentic Spanish tile, a feat much easier said than done. Even if the Shrine's destined location wasn't already in the middle of Tornado Alley, the immense size of the roof and its multiple cupolas — not to mention a 65,000 pound, 34-foot tall, 42-inch diameter dome — meant that using traditional clay tile was out of the question.

Durability wasn't the only necessity when it came to the roofing materials. Such a vast and highly visible canvas required color that was both beautiful and vibrant, and that would accurately depict the desired Spanish Baroque style. It also had to be steadfast to successfully withstand the harshest of elements over time.

The installation of roofing tile itself on that signature dome

would present a significant challenge. As the various teams collaborated to determine what the roof covering could and could not be, both the shape of the dome as well as the fact that it hadn't been engineered to support the weight of real slate meant that an alternative roofing product would need to be found. The alternative would mean costly structure modifications to enable the roof to handle the extreme weight of slate tiles — and as the Shrine build was already well on its way to becoming a \$40 million project, this was not a burden it could afford to bear.

Even the size of the roof itself would pose a predicament: its exceedingly long runs prevented the building from being able to contract and expand properly. The Shrine nevertheless resolved to find a roofing manufacturer that would be able to address all of the project's sophisticated needs, and without negatively impacting the build's timetable.

SOLUTIONS (DARE WE SAY, MIRACLES)

“Can it even be done?”

This was the initial question that BRAVA's technical team found themselves needing to answer. When the architects advising the Stanley Rother Shrine's build committee mentioned the name BRAVA more than a few times, they reached out to the top-performing synthetic tile roofing manufacturer in the hopes of salvation.

Upon consultation with the committee and review of the build, the BRAVA team set out to do something unprecedented: they built a replica of the Shrine's signature dome to scale at one of their own manufacturing plants. This enabled them to perform crucial test installs, which was the determining factor in not only identifying the appropriate roofing but also answering that initial question in the affirmative.

Initially, BRAVA's Composite Spanish Barrel Tile was selected for the job, as its classic clay tile profile perfectly met the Archdiocese's wish to pay homage to Saint James the Apostle and evoke the churches of Mexico and Central America. However, during their test installs, the BRAVA team soon found that its Terra Cotta Barrel Tile, while ideal for the field of the roof, wasn't quite able to fit the contours of the multiple domes. But choosing a different profile for the entire roof would have meant losing that overall stunningly authentic look.

It's uncommon, even rare, to combine two different roofing profiles on the same project, and yet that's what BRAVA ultimately advised the Shrine's roofing contractor, Goodman Construction, to do. BRAVA's Composite Slate Tile seemed to be the ideal solution for covering the domes thanks to its greater flexibility, but stylistic consistency was a genuine concern; one doesn't often see roofs successfully marrying Spanish tile with slate. The roofing manufacturer's tech team came through once again, infusing the Slate Tile installed on the domes with the same Terra Cotta color blend of the Spanish Barrel Tile, which ensured a seamless and cohesive appearance.

A lesser-quality roofing product would have been unable to hold its own in Oklahoma weather while maintaining such brilliant color; a less-committed roofing manufacturer would not be as accessible or involved once shipment of its product was complete. Goodman Construction found BRAVA to be highly responsive and open to collaboration, which proved invaluable on such a complex and high-profile install.

The Stanley Rother Shrine was the contractor's first application of BRAVA roofing tile, and the finished job shows just how thoroughly they put it through its paces. If you were to get up close to the Shrine's larger-than-life dome, you'd see how BRAVA's Slate Tile has been graduated from the bottom course



smaller and smaller and with the cuts steeper and steeper, to get the same even coursing as it makes its way up to the dome's top. With BRAVA available to and supportive of Goodman every step of the way, this ensured that material and accessories were on hand precisely when needed, and that engineering questions were addressed promptly so workers could maintain their schedules.

As for those exceedingly long runs affecting the building's expansion and contraction, Goodman Construction sought to design an expansion joint from scratch to address the issue, consulting BRAVA's experts in order to roof and flash properly around it. They didn't have long to wait, as the roofing manufacturer was on site periodically throughout the install, conducting inspections to ensure a successful and quality install.



A TRUE VOCATION

The act of pilgrimage is a devotional practice consisting of a journey, blending the spiritual with the physical into a unified experience. The intricate design and construction of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine's roof did much the same, marrying the Archdiocese's objective to celebrate the fallen priest with the best building materials for the job. BRAVA is honored to have been trusted with such a challenging and rewarding project, and to have helped the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City fulfill its holy mission.

"I think BRAVA's roof products are comparable to the best alternative synthetic roof products in the market in terms of ease of installation and durability."

— Paul Goodman, Owner & CEO, Goodman Construction

PROJECT

Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine

LOCATION

Oklahoma City, OK

CLIENT

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

PROJECT TYPE

New Construction

ROOF AREA / SQ. FOOTAGE

6,000 SF

ROOFING PRODUCTS

BRAVA Composite Spanish Barrel Tile and Slate Tile in Terra Cotta

BUILDING ENVELOPE

43,000 SF

ARCHITECT / ENGINEER

ADG | Blatt Architects

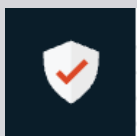
CONTRACTOR

Goodman Construction

MARKET

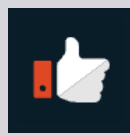
Religious / Cultural / Local Community

THE BENEFITS OF BRAVA



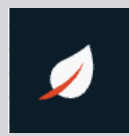
Durability

BRAVA's composite roof tiles create a natural appearance, with a 50-year warranty. Longevity and low maintenance offer an excellent ROI.



High Wind Resistance

BRAVA tiles meet high quality standards, endure extreme weather, and pass wind tests up to 188 MPH with nails and 211 MPH with screw installation.



Environmentally Friendly

Our sustainable polymer roofing, crafted from recycled materials, outlasts natural slate, offering durability without the maintenance of natural slate tiles.



Ease of Installation

Our roofing systems with installation accessories requires no additional structural support, which is ideal for new construction and re-roofs for various projects.



Luxurious Roofing Material
Made by Brava in Iowa

bravarooftile.com

BRAVA Roof Tile

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