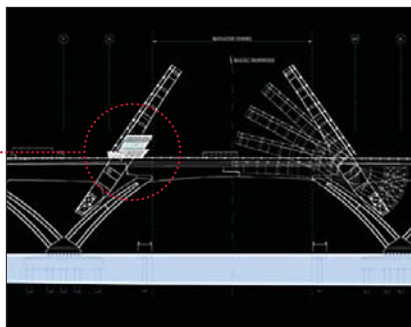


### Curved IG Glass Operator's Tower Soars Above New Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge

**Capital Beltway drivers breathed a collective sigh of relief with the opening of the new Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge**, a soaring six-lane span over the Potomac River connecting Virginia and Maryland. A second six-lane span is scheduled for completion in 2008, doubling the capacity of the bridge by the same name, now under demolition. The \$2.5 billion project was designed by Washington architectural firm, KressCox Associates (now Cox, Graae + Spack).

The new bridge is taller -- 28 feet higher than the old bridge at its apex -- making drawbridge openings and the accompanying delays less common. The most architecturally interesting aspect is the bridge's ship-like operator's tower, an arresting vertical presence in curved glass that emulates the look of an ocean-going ship's smoke stacks. Integrated within the twin-span bridge structure, the manned tower minimizes visual interference with the continuous rhythm of the V-pier arches spanning the river.




Cricursa Curvados S.A., a world-renowned manufacturer of curved and specialty glass products in Barcelona, Spain, created the multi-panel sections of bent layered glass in a "dot" frit pattern. Thirteen bullet-

resistant curved low-e glass panels and one flat panel totaled 1,500 sq. ft. in glazed surface. Each of the trapezoid shaped panels measure 6' 6" wide by 19' high. Each of the outboard sections have four glass layers; the inboard ones, two.

IG fabrication and installation of the tower sections was handled by U.S. Curtainwalls, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio. **"This project was small, compared with our typical high-rise towers, but it was perhaps the most challenging job we've ever done,"** says company president Don Kelly. "We field-assembled the IG using Super Spacer® TriSeal™ and raised each assembled panel, weighing over 800 pounds, into place using a unique 12-cup lifting apparatus, which we built especially for this project.

"This was our first experience working with Edgetech's structural warm edge spacer," notes Kelly, "but it won't be the last. We feel that with flexible Super Spacer TriSeal, you have much better chance of getting a continuous primary seal around the perimeter of the glass on both sides of the spacer, adding significantly greater years of service without worry of seal failure." Super Spacer TriSeal, made by

Edgetech IG, Cambridge, Ohio, is a flexible foam, warm-edge spacer designed for fixed commercial and structural glazing, using all sealants including silicone. Architects specify it for U-factor improvement, UV resistance, reduced perimeter condensation and enhanced sound dampening properties. 



**12 vacuum cups lift curved IG unit into place on the tower, powered by U.S. Curtainwalls' proprietary lifter.**



**The bent glass trapezoids, sealed with Edgetech's flexible spacer, have virtually no straight lines or 90° corners.**