RUTHERFORD COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER

RCJC is a 6-story, 203,000 sq. ft. County Courthouse which was the first field-bolted SidePlate project in the state of Tennessee.

CHALLENGES

• Bracing didn’t fit within architecture, conventional moment frames were too expensive.
• Field-welding is expensive and time-consuming, slowing the schedule.
• Aggressive construction schedule but limited site and crane access.

SOLUTIONS

• SidePlate design saved over 350 tons of steel and used 50% fewer overall moment connections to keep steel within budget.
• SidePlate connections bolted in the field and saved approximately $80,000 by eliminating Ultrasonic Testing.
• Bolted SidePlate connections erected faster than conventional to maintain schedule.

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Architect
Gresham Smith and Partners

Structural Engineer
Gresham Smith and Partners

General Contractor
Bell and Associates Construction

Fabricator
Schuff Steel

Erector
River City Erectors

Detailer
H&R Steel Detailing, LLC
FIELD-BOLTED SIDEPLATE®
MOMENT CONNECTION

For well over 20 years, SidePlate technologies have optimized steel building designs, delivering cost savings and performance. SidePlate connections are designed, they’re not a product, and they’re built by any steel fabricator. SidePlate connections reduce drift, so our lateral frames use less structural steel (and often fewer joints) than other moment frames and our field-bolted connection eliminates all field-welding. Less steel tonnage, less field labor, and structural optimization at no charge to the design team. How can SidePlate benefit you?

R=3 Beam Assembly
- fillet welds in shop
- short-slotted holes
- no beam section loss

R=3 Column Assembly
- fillet welds in shop (some stitch)
- short-slotted holes
- no column section loss

R=3 Completed Connection
- beam is simply lowered into place
- easier to align holes from top
- no shear tab required

Other moment connections
Drift = 2.35"

SidePlate® moment connections
Drift = 1.65"

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