



**Project:**  
The Sands Expo & Convention  
Center

**Location:**  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**General Contractor:**  
Pete King Commercial

**Products:**  
FLAME CURB®  
WATER CURB®  
PABCORE® Shaftliner

## Renovating the world's largest integrated resort

PABCO® Gypsum teams up with Las Vegas contractor Pete King Commercial and Westside Building Material for rapid expansion of the Sands Expo & Convention Center

### Las Vegas, Nevada

When Sheldon Adelson opened his 1.2 million sq. ft. Sands Expo and Convention Center in 1990, it was the largest privately owned convention facility in the world. It's now bigger and better, with the latest upgrades completed last year and solid operating results.

Decades of success did not happen by accident. While most Las Vegas hotels catered to the "weekend in Vegas" crowd – with minimal guest room amenities designed to encourage spending time in casinos – Adelson opted for more luxurious accommodations. His Sands facilities have nothing but luxury suites and modern accommodations to attract a wide range of business and professional organizations. The strategy keeps mid-week occupancy strong and delivers greater bottom line returns from conventions than from gambling.



"A massive project. Truckloads and truckloads; semis drove into the facility to offload – that's how big it is. We delivered about 575,000 sq. ft. of PABCO board."

*– Don Nadeau, Operations Manager  
Westside Building Material*



Open, airy lower level entrance and lobby area invites Sands Expo Center entrants to ascend to the next level, with its newly renovated exhibit hall, meeting rooms and business center facilities.

"Customers using PABCO appreciate the quality that they get every time - a consistent product."

- Jon Conard, Westside Building Materials - Las Vegas, NV

Today's complex has come a long way since the original hotel opened in 1952. The Sands Hotel quickly gained popularity with the Hollywood crowd after giving birth to the Rat Pack (movie stars Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Joey Bishop and Peter Lawford) and was the location of the original 1960 film, *Ocean's 11*. In 1997, the Sands was replaced by the Venetian, a Five Diamond luxury resort. After a decade of success, the property expanded with construction of the Palazzo Resort Hotel next to the Sands Expo Center.

Together, the Sands Expo and Convention Center, Palazzo and Venetian make up the world's largest integrated resort. It includes over 2.3 million square feet of convention and exhibition space, 7,000 guest suites and a wide array of shopping, dining and entertainment options. Inside the Expo Center, numerous enhancements began taking shape in mid-2012.

## Ongoing Convention Center events pose unconventional renovation challenges

It wasn't your typical job, reports Byron Lacey, Director of Operations for Las Vegas contractor Pete King Commercial, which handled drywall installation\* on three Expo Center levels including the main exhibit hall, meeting rooms and other areas. "Framing and hanging had to be done around the conventions going on elsewhere in the facility. About 80 percent of our work was completed in the first six months, often working around the clock."

Westside Building Material supplied PABCO® Gypsum for the project, and General Manager Jon Conard concurs. "The rush was really on; we made a lot of off-hour deliveries."

"It was a massive project," adds Westside Operations Manager Don Nadeau, "Truckloads and truckloads; semis drove into the facility to offload - that's how big it is. We delivered about 575,000 sq. ft. of PABCO® board."

While PABCO® FLAME CURB® 5/8 in. Type X drywall made up the bulk of the deliveries, other gypsum panels used included PABCORE® Shafliner - ideal for elevator bays, with its proprietary fire resistant Type X core reinforced with glass fibers - and PABCO® WATER CURB® for the restrooms.

Although most drywall work was relatively routine, Nadeau notes that some areas required special framing. Also, "a lot of radius walls had curves, bends and angles. It looks very sharp."

## Tight timetable, potential penalties drive PABCO® Gypsum choice

From Lacey's perspective, PABCO® was a must for this project "because of how quickly we used the board, how much we needed and stocking availability. If you go into a project like this with a tight schedule and high liquidated damages, then have to wait a week to get board, you're done. We would have had a tough time without PABCO®."

Many architects in the eastern U.S. that are designing buildings in the west are not familiar with PABCO® Gypsum. That's why Pete King Construction puts in a Substitute Request for PABCO® products on about half of its projects, Lacey says.

"It's worth the effort," the 30-year Pete King veteran asserts. "We started using PABCO® about 17 years ago, after having delamination, blistering and service issues from other manufacturers. We changed to PABCO® because of the quality and have never had a problem with their board. Now we use it on about 98% of our jobs - hospitals, apartments, condos, hotels, malls - everything."

"Our company's been around for 65 years and we've worked with a lot of people," Lacey sums up. "We're as happy with PABCO® and Westside as we could be."

Judging from the renovated facility's appearance, the renewed flow of events and attendees, the Sands Expo and Convention Center executives are pleased, too.

\* Curved, undulating Sands Expo Center lobby ceiling was fabricated and installed by The Raymond Group.

## About Sands Expo

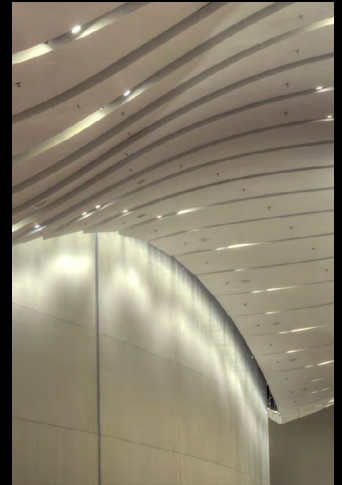
The Sands Expo first opened its doors in 1990. Over the past 24 years we have become a global leader in sustainable strategies, offer unmatched Wi-Fi capabilities, and provide an unparalleled level of customer service. Combined with the Congress Center at the Venetian and Palazzo, we are the only site in the world that has attained APEX/ASTM Level 2 Venue Certification for sustainability; and 2.25 million square feet of flexible meeting and exhibition space makes us the largest, greenest convention center and Five Diamond resort in the world. Sands Expo is consistently identified among industry peers and publications as one of the most successful trade show venues in America. For more information, visit [www.sandsexpo.com](http://www.sandsexpo.com).

## About Pete King Commercial

Pete King Construction Company is a metal framing, drywall, and painting sub contractor. For more than 60 years, the Pete King Companies have been helping to build the Southwest. Over the years the company has had the privilege of working with many General Contractors on both large and small projects all across the Southwest. For more information, visit [www.petekingaz.com](http://www.petekingaz.com).

## About PABCO® Gypsum

A leading manufacturer of wallboard in the U.S. since 1972, PABCO® Gypsum is a division of PABCO® Building Products LLC, one of several subsidiaries that make up the Pacific Coast Building Products family of companies, serving customers coast-to-coast. PABCO® Gypsum's complete range of products incorporates numerous proprietary and/or patented fire, water, and mold resistant technologies. Since 2013, QuietRock®, the first and most technically advanced sound reducing drywall and accessories, is also part of the PABCO® family. PABCO® Gypsum plants in Newark, CA and Las Vegas, NV have combined capability to manufacture over 1.65 billion square feet of board annually. For more information, visit [www.pabco gypsum.com](http://www.pabco gypsum.com).



The wave-like effect in the Convention Center lobby ceiling comes from panels prefabricated and installed by The Raymond Group, Las Vegas.

