

Thanks for helping us  
build an amazing century



100 years after the first dreams and musings of founder Francis Plym, Kawneer continues to innovate and expand the boundaries of the possible. As the company looks forward to the next century, Kawneer will continue to provide the solutions customers need to face the future.



**Kawneer**  
An Alcoa Company

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build for life



CELEBRATING  
100 years  
SINCE 1906  
KAWNEER

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# Kawneer

A history of looking forward.

Since its beginnings in 1906, Kawneer has balanced experience with innovation by listening to our customers and by giving them the tools they need to succeed. Today, Kawneer offers a comprehensive line of architectural aluminum building products and systems for commercial construction—entrances, framing systems, windows and curtain wall systems. After 100 years of leadership, we're looking forward to the next century of innovative solutions for the architectural needs of the future.



Among the projects that set Kawneer apart was its first curtain wall installation in 1932. The U.S. Post Office in St. Paul, Minnesota was a unique engineering challenge that led to many more successes.

# 100 Years of Innovation

## 1906

Designer, inventor and entrepreneur Francis Plym, working from a sheet metal shop located “near the Kaw,” a river in Kansas City, is awarded his first patent. The man—and the company he founded—would continue to innovate in the realm of architectural products, earning Kawneer over 400 patents over the next century.



## 1910-1920

During the First World War, Kawneer develops the first metal air frame sections used in American aircraft. For this achievement, the U.S. War Department officially commends Kawneer.

## 1920-1930

Kawneer becomes the first manufacturer to use aluminum in architectural products. While other builders of the time rely on bronze and copper to create ornate grills and soffits, Kawneer begins to increasingly incorporate the lightweight, strong, economical metal that would become the company's hallmark.

## 1930-1940

By now, nearly 75% of the company's store front business centers on aluminum—and Kawneer becomes the largest American user of the metal for architectural purposes.

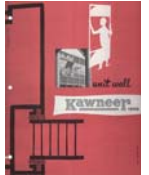
## 1940-1950

Months after Pearl Harbor, every inch of the Kawneer plant is devoted to making airplane parts for sixty-six different customers. American soldiers fly into battle supported by Kawneer rib assemblies, fuel tank supports, flap controls and many other components.



## 1950-1960

Kawneer unveils its first standardized curtain wall. The Kawneer Unit Wall design was an ideal innovation for the post-war building boom that helped ensure high quality and facilitated quick erection on the job site.



## 1960-1970

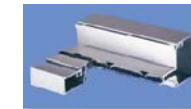
Kawneer develops Dual Moment Corner Construction, the first of its type. It's a fabrication method that provides such exceptional strength and durability, it continues to be used today.

## 1970-1980

Once again, Kawneer sets the standard for architectural trends that would continue for years. The company's Seamless Mullion Framing System becomes the first unitized recta-linear window framing system, providing a seamless appearance at the mullion line.

## 1980-1990

Energy-efficiency continues to be a driver for innovation as Kawneer develops IsoLock™ Thermal Break Technology. This lanced pour and debridge configuration incorporates a design which mechanically bonds to the aluminum profile, thus ensuring integrity of the frame.



## 1990-2006...and Beyond

Kawneer increasingly commits itself to sustainable environmental solutions that look to a more earth-friendly future. The most notable example, launched in the late 90's, is a family of “sun control” products, including Kawneer PowerWall®, the first proven integrated photovoltaic curtain wall system. Today, Kawneer continues to provide innovative solutions that help our customers build for life.