

### The Project: One and Two Ravinia Drive

One and Two Ravinia Drive—two, book-end, 400,000 square foot buildings developed by Hines in suburban Atlanta .

### The Problem

Design architect Kevin Roche desired the buildings' principle design feature to be the exterior sunshades. This had never been attempted before on such a scale, as each 18-story building required some *two miles* of sunshades. Consequently, the project team had to devise a method of design, fabrication and installation that would withstand the requisite wind loading, accommodate the need to wash the windows, would not fade or rattle, and—importantly—be budget compliant, given that the buildings were developed for profit.

### The Solution

In concert with the general contractor, the sunshade subcontract was procured as a design-build item—required to comply with the architect's aesthetic as well as the engineer's performance criteria. It was competitively bid as such. Several pilot versions were manufactured by the successful subcontractor, then mocked up and tested under wind loading. The first few tries resulted in the shades being literally blown to pieces. The design was revised, connection details improved, and finally the third mock-up survived the testing protocol.

### The Result

The design of the sunshades was finalized and they were manufactured and installed in time for the building's opening—13 months after construction commencement. They continue to perform without problems 25 years later.

### Fletcher's role

Hines Construction Manager responsible for delivery of the base building.



*\* Fetch - the act of sailing to a location accurately  
without having to tack.*