



# Turning the Corner on “You Can’t” -

## **PRESSED-BRASS RAINSCREEN**

Form/Function Contributes to Award-Winning Green Building In Brooklyn’s Boerum Hill

# CASE STUDY

Stewart Osborne of The NAVA Companies had finally received project go-ahead.

He and his team had been granted a permit to build a 10-unit, luxury passive-house building adorning the Northeast corner of Brooklyn’s Boerum Hill neighborhood. With permit in hand, NAVA was looking to deliver – decades ahead of schedule -- a building meeting New York Governor Bill DeBlasio’s 2050 green building goals.

Good news quickly turned to bad, as manufacturer after manufacturer was unable to meet Osborne’s requirements for a stunning visual element and energy-saving aspect of the building’s exterior: 16,000 0.02-inch pressed brass tiles, which would be fastened to a rainscreen, 8,000 feet of stainless steel vented track system and steel tracks supporting ventilation.

“You can’t press brass” was the unanimous response from his cadre of standard vendors.

This was nerve-inducing news for the NAVA architect, designer, and construction manager.

NAVA was anxious to advance the building’s construction schedule. Not doing so risked missing the permit window and having to painstakingly re-apply with NYC Buildings.

Much worse than reapplying was the cost in terms of time and money for a delay of any nature, let alone waiting for re-approval, which can take as long as five years. NAVA’s pain was significant.

**“You Can’t Press Brass.”**

**... Or Can We?**

Osborne began scouring the net for “pressed brass tiles,” “metal rainscreens,” “custom wall panels,” and “architectural metal fabrication.”

The search resulted in a —>

Location:  
210 Pacific Street, Brooklyn NY

Client:  
NAVA

Project:  
Brass Shingles/Rainscreen

Featured:  
New York Times, Dwell,  
Copper Development  
Association Award Winner