



Photo by Joe Green



**NSTAR KENDALL SQUARE
ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.**

Design Architect: Arrowstreet, Somerville, Mass.

Architect of Record: Dewberry, Fairfax, Va.

General Contractor: Bond Brothers, Everett, Mass.

Metal Wall Panel Mfr.: Fabral, Lancaster, Pa.

Metal Panel Installer: Brookside Co. Inc., Stow, Mass.

Metal Roof Screen Mfr: McNichols Co., Tampa, Fla.

NSTAR is the largest Massachusetts-based, investor-owned electric and gas utility. It needed a new electrical substation in Cambridge Research Park to replace an obsolete facility that had experienced brownouts during peak periods. The challenge was to meet complex technical requirements for the research-oriented area's needs while providing a strong streetscape identity on a very constrained site.

The solution was to create a visual narrative about energy through seven "chapters" made of 15-foot metal panels with graphic displays that span the length of the building. The panels' vibrant color palette and gridline reference NSTAR's extensive service network and contrast nicely with the brick base building. The panels are 20-gauge stainless steel with a 7/8-inch corrugation. A total of 3,700 square feet of the panels were used. Metal also met the need for durability and low maintenance and conveyed the industrial character of the facility. Stainless steel was chosen for its reflectivity in capturing changing light patterns from day to the nighttime lights of neighboring buildings. Saw-tooth patterned metal screening fabricated by Raynham, Mass. based Ryan Ironworks is used as roof top screening.



Photo by Peter Vanderwarker

NSTAR | (781) 441-8592 | nstaronline.com

Arrowstreet | (617) 623-5555 | arrowstreet.com

Dewberry | (703) 849-0100 | dewberry.com

Bond Brothers | (617) 387-3400 | bondbrothers.com

Brookside Company Inc. | (978)-897-4306

Mc Nichols | (877) 884-4653 | mcnichols.com

Fabral | (800) 477-2741 | fabral.com