Roof of the Kinpozan Enpukuji Temple

Location	Fukushima, Japan
Environment	Outdoor
Grade/surface	SUS304
Manufacturer	Douichi Metal Industry Ltd.
Material supplier	Nisshin Steel
Source of information	JSSA

Conventional materials for roofs of shrines and temples are tiles, copper sheets and prepainted steel sheets. More recently, however, requirements for alternate materials have risen which are lighter in weight, more capable of resisting the impact of possible earthquakes and more resistant to corrosion. Coated stainless steels have been known for some time to be a possible alternative material but because of the hardness of stainless steel it was not considered to be a good roofing material for shrines and temples where the roofs need extensive bending and curving work. To address this problem, a new roofing material was developed by colouring a softer and easier-to-process equivalent of grade SUS304, which helped to combine formability, corrosion resistance and light weight. The strength of the material adds resistance to earthquake damage, but it also allows for thinner gauges to be specified, thus reducing the weight of the roof. New technologies allow a range of colours for the stainless steel surface. The material can be easily installed, thus promoting stainless steel for roofing applications for these religious structures and contribute to preserving an important part of Japanese culture.