Introduction to the MIFAB® Specification Catalog

The beginnings of the modern specification drainage product can be traced back to the early part of the twentieth century. Architects began to demand a drain with secondary drainage to protect both the aesthetics and structural integrity of their buildings. Until this time, a drain was usually nothing more than a grate fitted in the end of a pipe which terminated at the floor level. Unfortunately, this led to water seeping around the pipe and the ruining of ceilings, etc., in the floors below. The design of a drain with secondary drainage meant that a drain body had to be designed that allowed weepholes to remove water that may seep around the rim of the drain. Since then, architects and mechanical designers have been able to specify products that featured a variety of design considerations that were made necessary by the rapidly changing building techniques we have experienced since the beginning of the twentieth century.

As we built both higher and faster, architects and engineers realized the need for a drain with not only secondary drainage, but also a clamping device to secure a waterproofing membrane in multi-story buildings. These developments ushered in the era of competition in the specification drainage market, as new manufacturers duplicated and expanded upon the products of those who had produced before.

More recently, the advent of the adjustable drain and the floor mounted carrier for off the floor fixtures added to the already overwhelming variety of specifiable products available to the architect and mechanical designer. Today, a specifier can choose from literally thousands of products from many manufacturers. A mechanical designer has to be careful at every turn to make sure he has decided between non tilt or tractor grates, between ductile and gray cast iron, between adjustable and non-adjustable top assemblies, heel proof or non heel proof grates. In short a baffling array of options that do little to improve the basics of the design, i.e. free area and load bearing characteristics.

The MIFAB® Advantage

A logical, function driven product line that replaces confusion with simplicity and offers all the features required by today's building practices without all the unnecessary duplication.