The Gaylord Palms Hotel and Conference Center is located in the heart of Orlando, Florida. Just outside of Walt Disney World and many other parks, this hotel is a major hub for both tourists and business people. The hotel lobby boasts a signature 4.5-acre enclosed glass atrium featuring several Florida-themed environments. With the intense design expectations coupled with the new state-adopted building codes on the wind load data, this installation required an entire team of engineering and construction experts working harmoniously.

The Goal

The hot, Florida climate can wreak havoc on a building’s air control. The air exchange every time a door opens can result in a few degrees too high or too low. Over a long, hot day, the difference is noticeable. The Gaylord Palms has hundreds of guests passing through their grand entrance every day. And due to the real-life experience of the themed environments, any fluctuation in indoor temperature was not acceptable. The indoor climate must be comfortable and controlled.

The Gaylord Palms Hotel and Conference Center was designed as a turn of the century Florida mansion, yet with modern touches and amenities. Each detail, down to the floor, was intensely planned and carefully incorporated. The entrance to the signature atrium also needed to blend aesthetically and architecturally fit into the overall design of the hotel.

With hundreds of guests passing through, many of them families with children and luggage, both convenience and safety were a necessity. A safe, hands-free entrance would provide the warm welcome the hotel strived for. In addition, the state of Florida just introduced new building codes that required wind load data for all exterior doors.
The Gaylord Palms Hotel and Conference Center Result

Starting at the design phase, DCI was a part of the Gaylord Palms construction team. Meeting with architects and contractors well before construction began allowed DCI to provide the appropriate recommendations for meeting the hotel's goals for energy efficiency, design, aesthetics and maximum safety. The DCI experts on the team were fluent on specification writing and working with architects, so they were able to place the door specifications into the project at the earliest possible moment. And, since this was going to be the first large diameter revolving door installed in Florida under the new building codes, there were many engineering reviews and approvals needed before installation could begin. It was exactly one year to complete engineering data, receive approval through the building department and then finally turn the first screw for installation.

DCI also worked closely with partner, door manufacturer, Besam to customize the ultimate solution for them, which turned out to be the Besam UniTurn. A revolving door provides the most energy efficiency by preventing air conditioning loss. It is also an elegant door that blends perfectly with the building's facade, especially with the custom champagne color of the door finish. But first, DCI worked with the Gaylord and the tile contractor to ensure the custom tile of the Gaylord sunburst was lined up exactly to where the Besam revolving door would sit. This turned out to be the most complicated and critical floor layout for any automatic door installation at DCI.