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Unico, Inc. manufacturing plant and sub-assembly plant

Unico, Inc. is the leader in small duct heating and cooling systems and other high-end HVAC systems. The company manufactures all of its products in St. Louis, Missouri, with over 125,000 square feet of modern manufacturing space. The company is well known for extensive use in older, architecturally unique homes and buildings as well as elite, high-end custom homes. The company is family owned and operated and their products are available throughout the United States and Canada, and in over 28 countries around the world.



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Luxury Apartment Presents the Face of Unico in China

The notion of “face” has a specific meaning in Chinese culture, indicating a sense of prestige and honor. So, it is no wonder that Franz Leung, The Unico System representative for the country, chose his own, elegant high-rise Beijing apartment as a working showroom and example of the system’s benefits. “In China, image is everything,” explains Franz, “This installation sets the stage with prestige and luxury, so consumers can relate comfort with these qualities.”

The apartment also allows visitors to witness first-hand how The Unico System fits easily into small spaces and compliments the apartment’s aesthetics, key factors for the capital city’s multitude of high-rise buildings.

Strategy:

Because high-rise apartment living constitutes the majority of Beijing’s residential makeup, forced air systems have all but disappeared, replaced by fan coil units and chillers. When Franz bought the unit, he immediately

The Unico System®



Supply tubes are routed through existing wall cavities for a minimalist, sleek look in the large open apartment.

replaced the existing fan coils with two 5-ton Unico Green Series air handlers. He kept the two original 6-ton chillers as the source of cold water for the cooling coils and integrated the hot water coils with a radiant floor heating system. Franz also added a humidifier and a fresh air recovery system. Franz opted to install an additional two 1.5-ton Green Series air handlers for the guest wing, consisting of two bedrooms, two bathrooms and an additional living room. While the two 5-ton air handlers are more than sufficient for the 4,000 sf apartment, Franz wanted to showcase the excellent zoning capabilities of The Unico System.

Results:

With the rise in popularity of tile and stone flooring in China, radiant heat systems have become more commonplace. However, their slow response requires the quicker supplemental heating available with The Unico System. In addition, Beijing's pollution renders air quality an important factor in residential HVAC, hence the addition of the fresh air recovery system. Combining or integrating these types of systems with fan coils is quite costly and complicated, but very easy with The Unico System – another benefit that can be experienced in Franz's showroom apartment.

Previously, Chinese consumers hadn't put much thought into their indoor comfort needs, leading developers to install low-cost equipment to keep things as cheap as possible. "But, Chinese consumers have come of age in terms of home comfort," notes Franz, "A showroom like ours allows them to experience a difference and make a better choice."



Benefits

- Even, draft-free temperatures
- Quiet operation
- Zone control options
- Discreet supply outlets
- Flexible design and installation
- Preserves historic aesthetics

Contractor:

Franz Leung/Unico, Inc.
Beijing, China

Outlets blend into the décor and provide an elegant yet functional aesthetic.



Franz Leung



The modular air handling equipment for this 5-ton unit easily fits into the apartment's mechanical closet. The other 5-ton unit is located above the laundry room and the two 1.5-ton units are mounted in the ceiling space as well.