

case study

Project **Springmill Learning Center**
Location.... **Mansfield, OH**
Design..... **Splashmakers LLC,**
Mansfield, OH
Product..... **Ultima® Create!™ ceilings**

the challenge:

The Springmill Learning Center is a hands-on science and outdoor education center housed in a once-vacant elementary school. During the design stages of the facility, teachers decided each room in the new Center should have a unique feature that would both function as the focal point of the space and support education.

the solution:

To help attain the objective, the Mansfield School District went to Splashmakers, a firm experienced in the design of exhibits, displays, and graphics for children's spaces.

"Our goal was to create an educational environment that was engaging, exciting, and on budget," states designer, Kevin Haring. "We wanted to wow the students as they walked in each room, while incorporating educational elements throughout every part of the room, including the ceiling."

The Center's new Earth Studies Room features a large 24' x 32' full color map of the world on the ceiling. It was created using Ultima Create!, a new custom design capability from Armstrong that allows designers to fashion their own one-of-a-kind ceiling art. The custom ceiling art can be generated from either digital artwork or imagery.

For Springmill, Haring took an existing photo of the earth, vectorized it, and put it in an Adobe® Illustrator® file. The file was then sent to Armstrong, which transferred the image onto a series of 2' x 2' Ultima Vector® acoustical ceiling panels.

And, the map is not the only teaching tool in the ceiling. The suspension system in which the ceiling panels are placed coordinates with actual latitude and longitude lines, while the recessed lights in the panels can be turned on and off to highlight geographic features like continents or oceans.

"We wanted to break the boundaries of what people usually think a classroom should look like," Haring states. "We hope other school systems will see this and get excited about implementing environments like it."



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