

case study

Project **Ford Alumni Center,
University of Oregon**
Location.... **Eugene, OR**
Architect... **Opsis Architecture, Portland, OR**
Product..... **Tierra™ ceilings**

the challenge:

The State of Oregon requires that all of its newly constructed buildings be the equivalent of LEED® Silver certification. To demonstrate its commitment to the environment, however, the state-operated University of Oregon desired LEED Gold certification for its new 60,000-square-foot, four-story center.

the solution:

According to architect Randall Heeb, one of the ways the design team met the objective was the use of new Tierra ceilings from Armstrong in all of the office areas. Totalling nearly 32,000 square feet, the offices are primarily open plan and house the administrative staffs for a myriad of alumni operations.

“Because of the large expanse of open plan, a ceiling that provided high acoustic performance was critical,” Heeb explains. To enhance the acoustical environment within a space, Tierra panels have a Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) of 0.85, as well as a high Articulation Class (AC) of 180.

“Because of both our and the university’s commitment to sustainability, however, it was the panels’ renewable content that was particularly attractive and became the real differentiator,” Heeb states.

Tierra ceilings feature an exclusive BioAcoustic™ substrate made from natural fibers and jute, a plant that grows from seed to harvest in 90 days. As a result of its unique substrate, Tierra has the highest rapidly renewable content in the industry at 44%, contributing significantly to the LEED “Rapidly Renewable Materials” credit (MRc6). It is also the only acoustical ceiling to attain *Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Silver*.

In addition to acoustics and sustainability, Heeb notes aesthetics and durability were also factors. “We liked the look,” he notes. “Visually, the panels have just enough texture to provide some interest to a very large unbroken ceiling plane.”

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