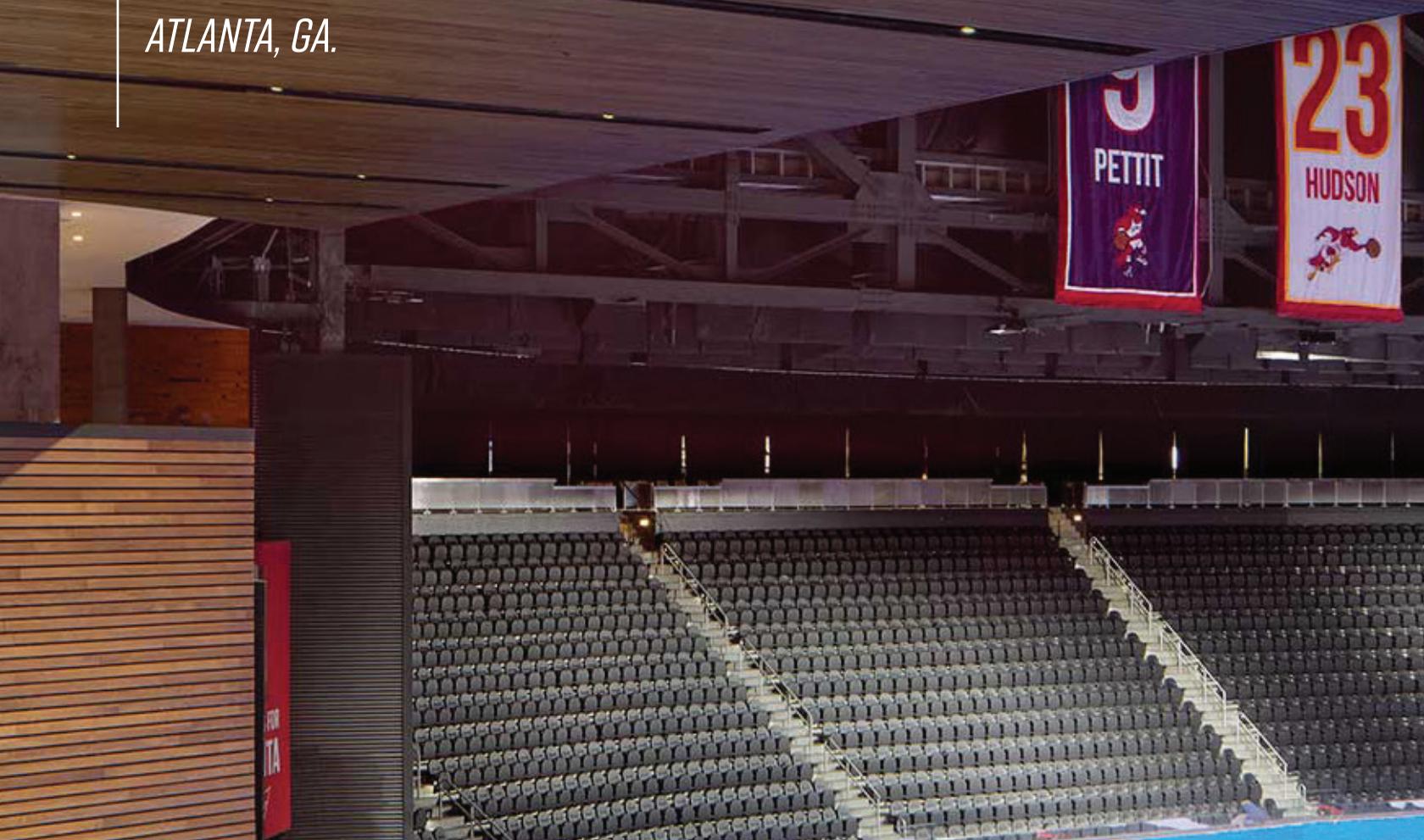


CASE STUDY

LIVING ROOM FOR THE CITY



*STATE FARM ARENA
ATLANTA, GA.*



DIVISION 9 ENGINEERED-TO-ORDER WOOD CEILINGS

The use of wood at State Farm Arena brings "warmth, comfort and a sense of richness to the building," says architect Emily Louchart of HOK. The space feels more like a concert hall than a sports arena.

The arena's wood ceilings and walls are expansive. "It's a unique landscape, wood traversing the building and clothing it with warmth."

The State Farm Arena, Atlanta, a reported \$192 million renovation of the existing home of the NBA's Atlanta Hawks, features about 20,000 sq. ft. of continuous linear wood walls and ceilings fabricated by 9Wood.

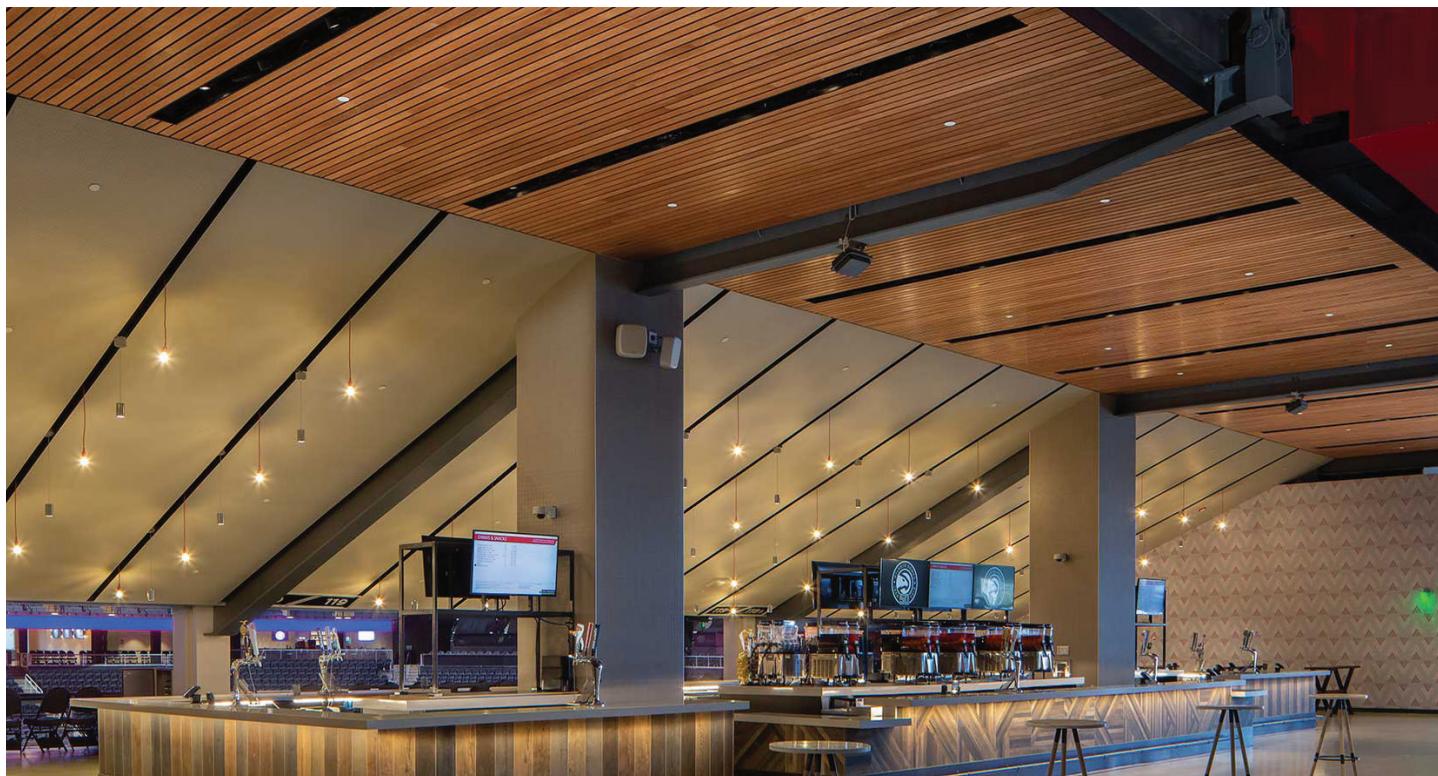
The design approach called for creating "a new, welcoming living room for Atlanta," says architect Emily Louchart of HOK. Wood was used to add "warmth, comfort and a sense of richness to the building," she says.

The architect sprinkled wood throughout the arena without overpowering the spaces. And, the arena's wood ceilings and walls are expansive and have a tiered look.

"It's a unique landscape, wood traversing the building and clothing it with warmth," says Brad Leonard, project manager at 9Wood.

90-ft.-high ceiling. The arena's most prominent wood feature is its west side continuous linear ceiling. The ceiling is comprised of 8-ft.-long, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. by 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ in., custom-stained, plain-sliced, white oak veneer over fire-rated particleboard core planks. The ceiling hangs 90 feet above the arena floor.

Here, subcontractor Anning-Johnson, Inc., Atlanta, had only three weeks to use a "dance floor" scaffold and install the ceilings. All the trades shared it, but the ceilings subcontractor led the



A concession area shows wood ceilings centered cleanly and symmetrically. The wood adds "warmth, comfort and a sense of richness to the building," says architect Emily Louchart of HOK.



PROJECT

State Farm Arena
Atlanta, Ga.

ARCHITECT

HOK
Kansas City, Mo.

CEILING CONTRACTOR

Anning-Johnson, Inc.
Atlanta, Ga.

CEILING SYSTEM

9Wood custom engineered
wood ceilings,
Springfield, Ore.

way in sequencing the work – first installing the grid, then light fixtures and air diffusers, and finally the wood members.

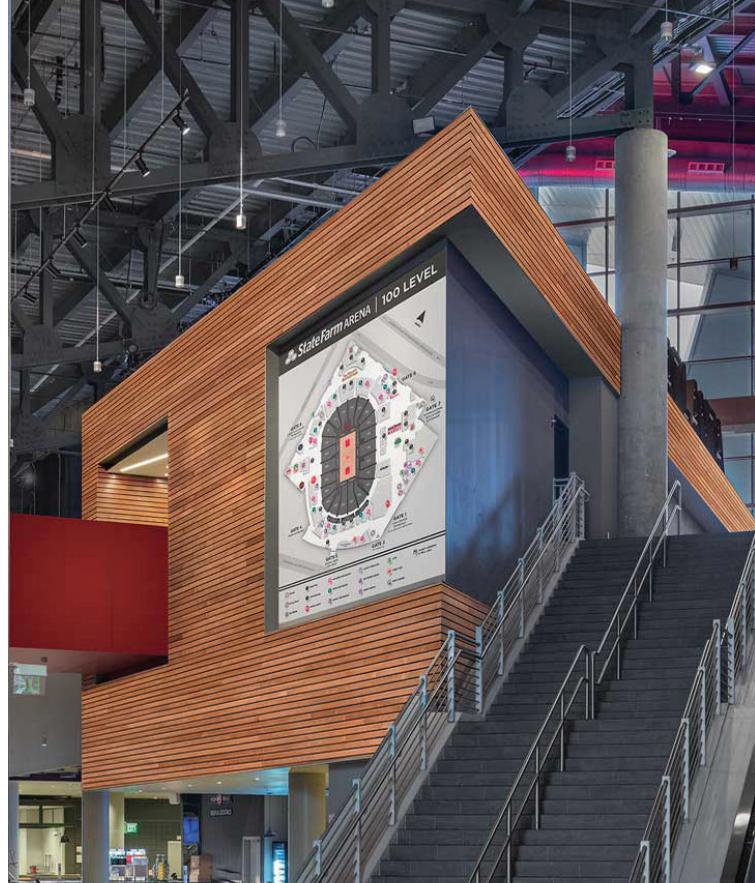
“We had no time to do a punch list,” says Tommy Ferrara, project manager at Anning-Johnson. “We had to deliver first-time quality.”

Shop drawings were approved at the end of June 2018. Material shipped in stages beginning in August of that year. Installation of about 9,900 sq. ft. of wood walls and 10,000 sq. ft. of wood ceilings began in mid-August and ran through the first week of October 2018. The project’s finite schedule ended with the beginning of the NBA season.

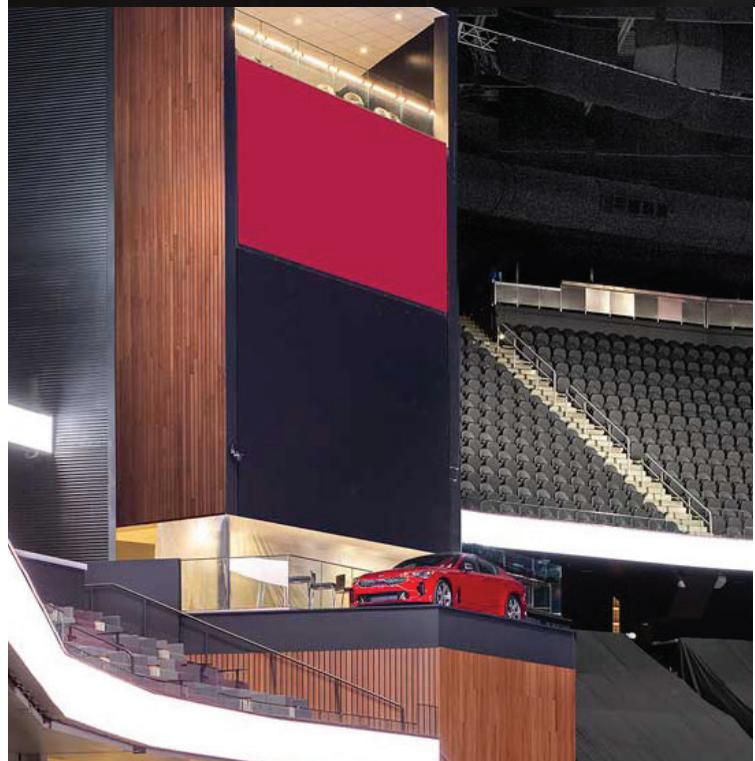
Sharp angles. Frequently, the linear wood walls meet at sharp angles. The corner reveals in the back post line up perfectly. This required Anning-Johnson to define the joinery conditions on site.

“We had to field cut rips in the planks to make everything align,” Ferrara says.

“ WE HAD NO TIME TO DO A PUNCH LIST.
WE HAD TO DELIVER FIRST-TIME QUALITY.”



The arena map features impressive joinery at perimeter corners. The architect specified only general guidelines for the field installers.



The “tower” spans a huge vertical height. Here, Anning-Johnson created a “picture frame” made of drywall and the custom-stained, plain-sliced, white oak veneer planks.

Ferrara's team, for example, had to figure out how wood members on one side of a concrete post would join with members on an adjacent side. The joinery details were left unspecified, but the cut edges of planks had to be mitered precisely and line up. Some planks joined to form acute angles. Since visitors mingle in these areas and would notice the work quality, Anning-Johnson worked hard to produce a high-grade millwork quality finish.

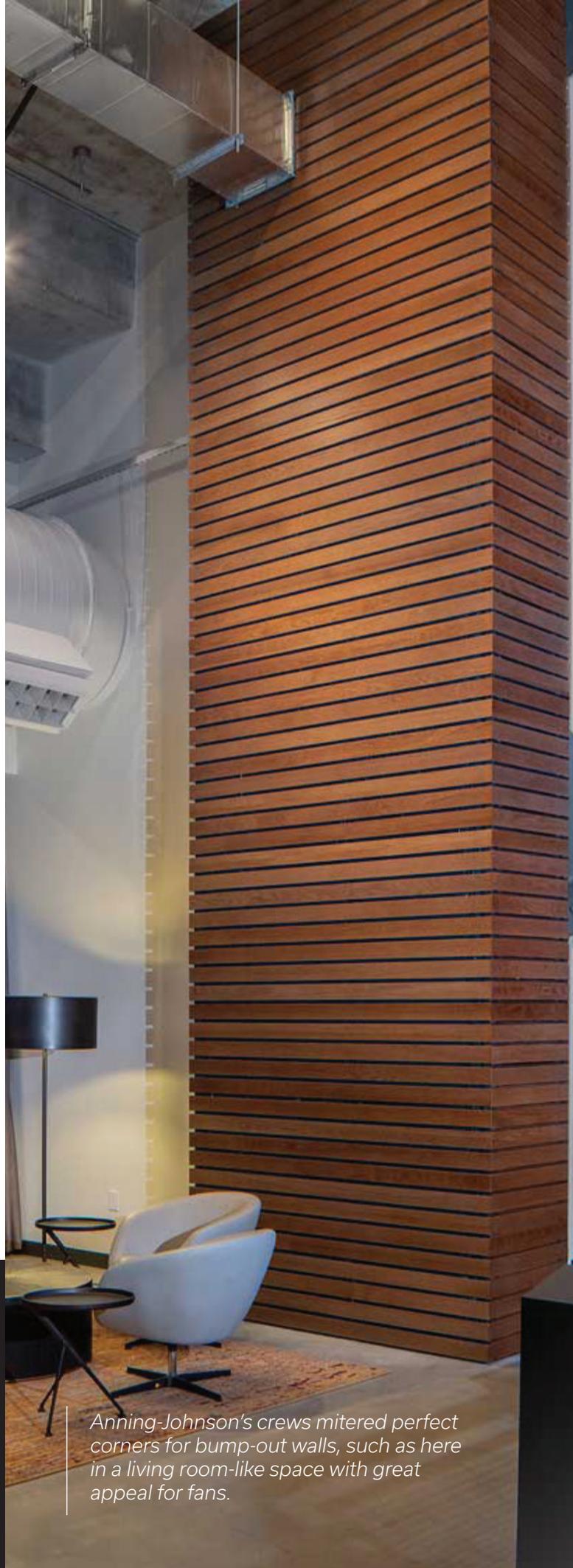
"Because the job was moving so fast, the approach we took was to propose solutions on the fly," Ferrara says. "Fortunately, the architect was amazing and liked our ideas."

Pure craftsmanship. Ferrara says the owner is "ecstatic" about the arena. Leonard says the project showcases "the ability of a good installer to work with general shop drawings and still pull off the design intent."

"They had to modify our product to create a variety of unique architectural elements," Leonard says. "What they did was journeyman-level craftsmanship."



Wood creates a space that "feels more like a concert hall than an arena," says Louchart. The subcontractor fulfilled the design intent perfectly.



Anning-Johnson's crews mitered perfect corners for bump-out walls, such as here in a living room-like space with great appeal for fans.



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Photography by Rion Rizzo,
Creative Sources

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