

CASE STUDY

# ANGLED AND INTRICATE



*CHARLES SCHWAB  
GRACY FARMS CAMPUS  
AUSTIN, TEXAS*



DIVISION 9 ENGINEERED-TO-ORDER WOOD CEILINGS

*The Amenity Center auditorium at Charles Schwab's Gracy Farms campus features FSC certified, solid western hemlock linear ceilings from 9Wood.*

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## “Every board had to be custom cut to make the angled shapes.”

The Amenity Center and Building 2 at Charles Schwab’s Gracy Farms campus in Austin, Texas, features 22,143 sq. ft. of Forest Stewardship Council™ certified western hemlock linear ceilings. The linear wood ceilings exist in multiple elevations and dimensions.

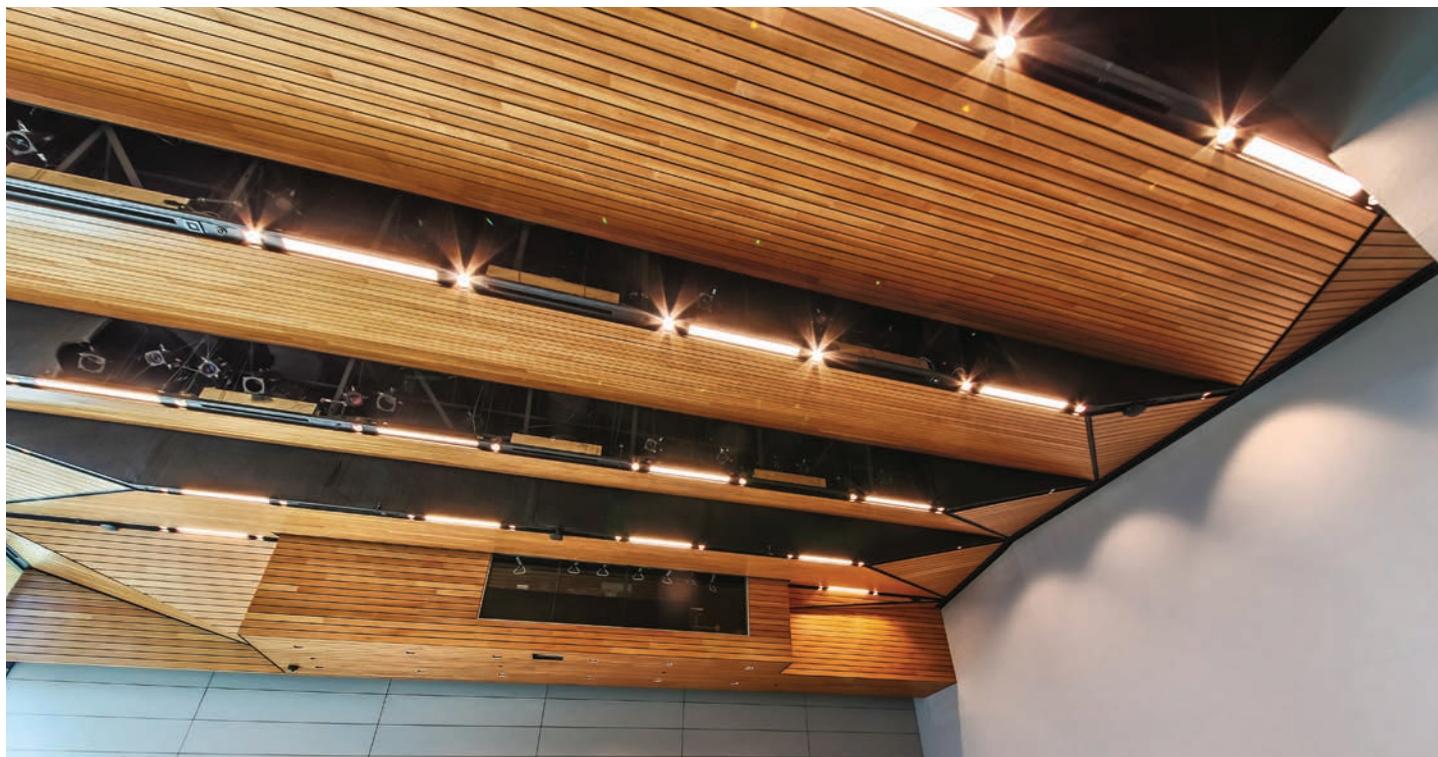
The wood ceilings help achieve “a seamless interior and exterior experience” and contribute to “gracious and interconnected public spaces,” says the lead architect at Page, Austin. “They complement the unique, natural features of the campus setting in an urban forest.”

**An urban forest.** Linear wood ceilings occur in two buildings. One building features a 4,188 sq. ft.

paneled linear wood ceiling in its lobby.

The second building has 17,955 sq. ft. of both paneled and continuous linear wood systems — (1) an 8,786 sq. ft. paneled linear wood ceiling in the lobby and hallways, and (2) a 7,774 sq. ft. continuous linear wood ceiling and 1,395 sq. ft. open reveal continuous linear wood ceiling in a multipurpose auditorium and dining room.

**V-shaped magic.** The auditorium is “where the magic happens,” says Michael Lyons, project manager at DPR Construction, Austin, which installed the ceiling. The ceilings are V-shaped, and angle upwards, inwards and outwards.



*DPR Construction built an AV booth in the auditorium ceilings. The wood members are all 3/4-inch by 5-1/4 inch FSC certified solid western hemlock. The ceilings are suspended with hanger wires and 15/16-inch heavy-duty t-bar grid.*



## PROJECT

Charles Schwab's Gracy Farms Campus  
Austin, Texas

## ARCHITECT

Page  
Austin, Texas

## CEILING CONTRACTOR

DPR Construction  
Austin, Texas

## CEILING SYSTEM

9Wood custom engineered  
wood ceilings,  
Springfield, Ore.

The installation required an extensive amount of scaffolding. The subcontractor had to build a large AV booth in the auditorium ceilings. The booth is covered with linear wood members, all hand cut in the field. Additional integrations included speakers, lighting fixtures and sprinkler heads.

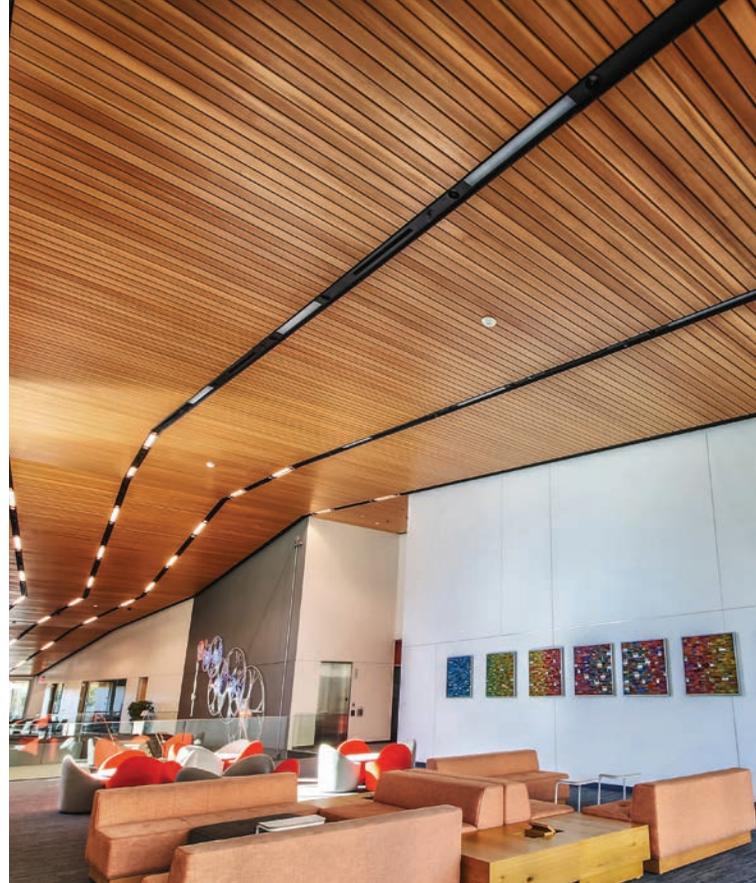
"Every board had to be custom cut to make the angled shapes," Lyons says. "The guys used a straight edge to make perfect cuts along the troughs [or areas between ceiling bays]."

The hallways, too, involved complicated installs over staircases and atriums.

"If you were standing on the ground looking up, it was just a big hole," Lyons says. "We cantilevered off of big rolling scaffolds to reach these ceilings."

**Intricate coordination.** The project is an outstanding example of coordination among the architect, manufacturer and subcontractor. 9Wood, for example, had just a few months to find and deliver

“ THIS WAS 100 PERCENT THE MOST  
INTRICATE, DETAILED AND COMPLEX  
CEILING WE'VE EVER BUILT.



Long spans of undulating interior continuous linear ceilings feature ¾-inch by 5 ¼-inch FSC certified solid western hemlock members.



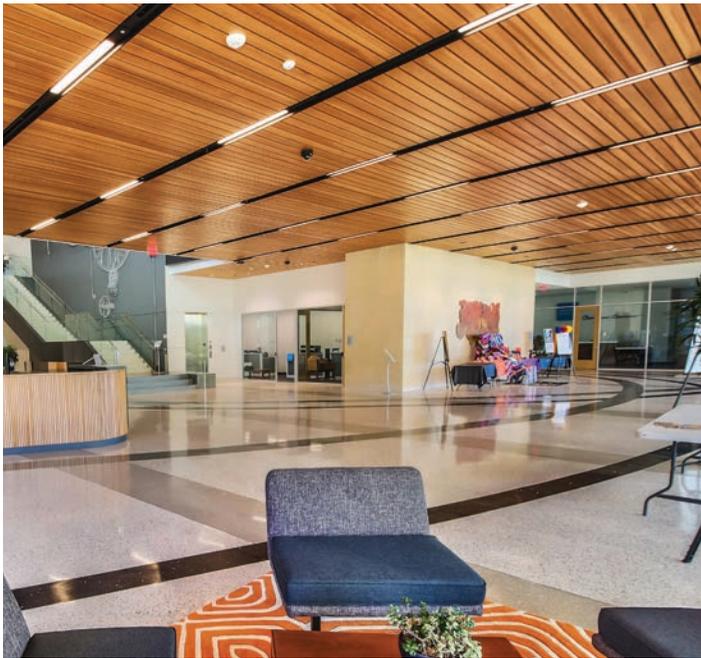
The multipurpose room showcases ceiling bays set at angles. The ceiling bays or "troughs" house sprinkler heads, lighting and air diffusers.

22,143 sq. ft. of FSC certified western hemlock.

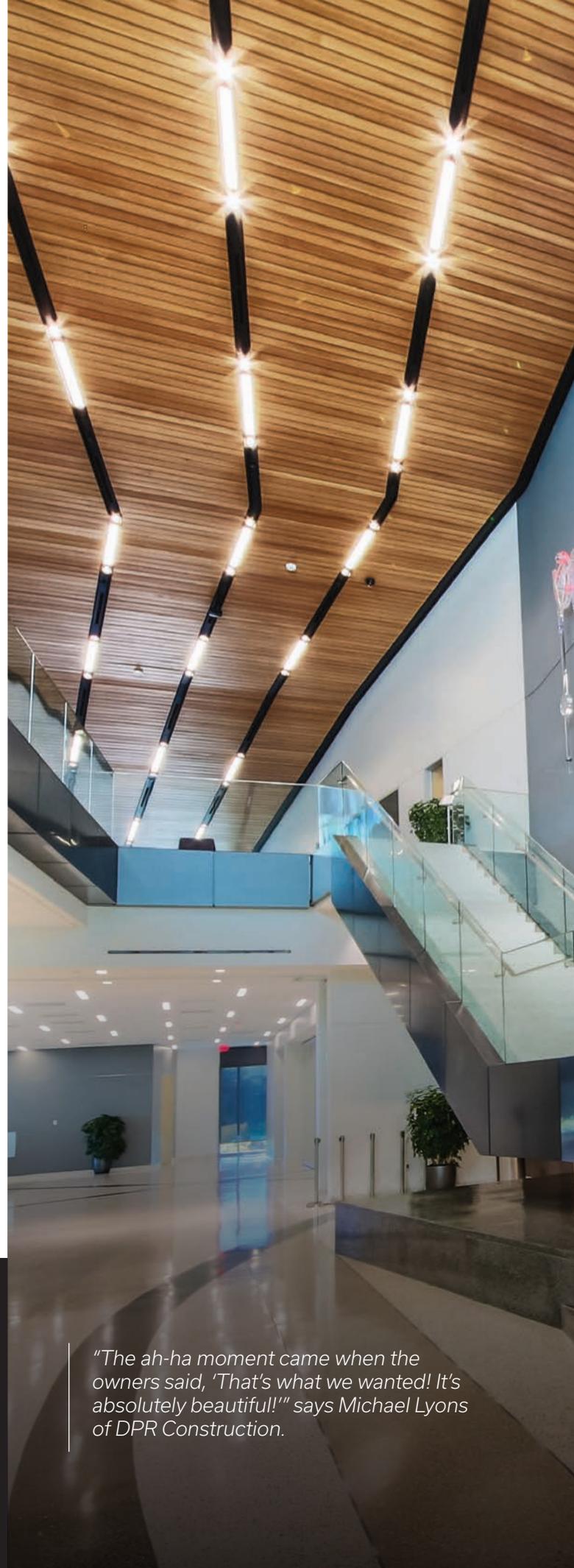
For its part, DPR Construction managed a tight operation and communicated its purchase orders in batches. This enabled 9Wood to time its material procurement with the construction workflow, while also planning ahead for subsequent orders.

9Wood also produced special installation drawings and 3-D renderings for the subcontractor. These detailed how to make various angled field cuts and how wood members would fit together.

"This was 100 percent the most intricate, detailed and complex ceiling we've ever built," Lyons says. "It took our most skilled, qualified and experienced guys working together day in and day out to figure out the cuts, the framing angles, the corners and the bays. It wasn't a ceiling just anybody could install."



*Stained hemlock linear ceilings add warmth to the Amenity Center lobby. "It's not an industrial space," says Rebecca Hart, 9Wood project manager. "Instead, it makes you feel at home."*



*"The ah-ha moment came when the owners said, 'That's what we wanted! It's absolutely beautiful!'" says Michael Lyons of DPR Construction.*



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Photography by Mario Villeda

999 South A Street  
Springfield, OR 97477  
Tel: 888-767-9990  
sales@9wood.com

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