# CASE STUDY VARMAND COZY INSIDE



HYATT REGENCY SEATTLE, WASH.



DIVISION 9 ENGINEERED-TO-ORDER WOOD CEILINGS

The hotel ballroom features wall and ceiling panels made with 3/4-in. plain sliced white oak veneered wood. The design made optimal use of material to minimize waste and maximize yield.

## "You walk into a large, expansive, flexible space. The finished wood product has acoustical properties that create an intimate experience."

A civic scale building with rigorous order, the Hyatt Regency Seattle has 1,264 guest rooms and 105,000 sq. ft. of meeting and ballroom space. The ballroom alone features 17,860 sq. ft. of custom acoustic panelized linear wood ceilings designed and fabricated by 9Wood. It also has 6,752 sq. ft. of custom acoustic panelized linear wood walls.

The use of wood reflects a Northwest design sensibility, says Principal Masako Wada of LMN Architects in Seattle. Besides the wood walls and ceilings, the ballroom includes elements such as diffused light and reflective surfaces. The combination of linear light fixtures and varying surface colors of the panelized linear wood walls and ceilings acts like a "woven wood basket," Wada says.

"You walk into a large, expansive, flexible space. The finished wood product has acoustical properties that create an intimate experience," says Steve Harpster, project manager as Performance Contracting, Inc., Seattle, which handled the walls and ceilings installation.

**Something new.** For the ballroom, 9Wood combined SKUs from its wood ceilings product line to create something new—a panelized wood linear ceiling with acoustical properties. The panels feature wood members of various width



The ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Seattle features 17,860 sq. ft. of custom acoustic panelized linear ceilings and 6,752 sq. ft. of custom acoustic panelized linear walls.

#### PROJECT

Hyatt Regency Seattle, Wash.

#### ARCHITECT

LMN Seattle, Wash.

### CEILING CONTRACTOR

Performance Contracting, Inc. Seattle, Wash.

#### CEILING SYSTEM

9Wood custom engineered wood ceilings, Springfield, Ore.

and colorations. The panels themselves vary in width and length. The company used CNC machines to add kerfs to the wood planks and create a high-NRC system.

"It's by far the most custom project we've ever worked on," says Brad Leonard, 9Wood project manager.

9Wood also addressed an important step by convincing the general contractor to bring the wood panels to the job site early. By doing so, the 493 ceiling panels and 339 wall panels acclimatized to the temperature and relative humidity of the ballroom before their installation.

**3,000 reveals.** The sheer magnitude of the walls and ceilings in the ballroom called for careful planning, special installation equipment and a continuous collaboration among the trades.

"We modeled the ceiling first and then figured out how our work would line up with the other

*OUR INSTALLERS WERE ATTENTIVE TO THE DETAILS. THEY TOOK THEIR TIME AND STAINED THE CUT ENDS.* 



The faces of the wood members are each milled with 1/16 in. kerfs. The kerfs are 8 mm o.c. and run the full length of all members to provide a higher NRC system.



The ceiling installation uses a double bridge system — a grid attached to a secondary grid suspended from the structure. Integrations include lighting fixtures, air diffusers and more. subcontractors," Harpster says.

The ballroom ceiling installation is a double bridge system—a grid attached to a secondary grid suspended from the structure. Harpster says that each of the roughly 3,000 reveal joints had to be executed perfectly—to exactly three-eighths of an inch (0.375"). And several integrations—two kinds of lighting fixtures, air diffusers, speakers and sprinkler heads—had to be cared for.

"Our installers were attentive to the details," the subcontractor says. "They took their time and stained the cut ends."

**Passion and dedication.** The project is the largest job that PCI has worked on in the state.

"You can imagine," Harpster says, "we had a number of field cuts to make on this magnitude of square footage." But, the work was completed on time and exceeded expectations. "When you've got passion and you've got dedication you get good results," he says.

The wood walls and ceilings at the Hyatt Regency Seattle have been getting rave reviews, the subcontractor says. "Sure we had to fix a few reveals on the fly," Harpster says, "but the architect is ecstatic about the finished product."



In the high-end hotel restaurant, 713 wood grille panels form a parquet. Each panel had a unique location and orientation, and they integrated with sprinklers, speakers and light fixtures.



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Photography by Steve Kovarik

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The restaurant features a crosspiece wood grille ceiling (3,647 sq. ft.) made with 3/4 in. by 5 1/4 in solid western hemlock members.

The restaurant ceiling was laid out as dozens of separate floating clouds. The architect was impressed with the acoustical properties of the wood grilles.