

RECLAIMED WOOD: URBAN RENEWAL

CASE STUDY



DIVISION 9 ENGINEERED-TO-ORDER WOOD CEILINGS

Reclaimed Wood: Urban Renewal

Center for Urban Waters

Reclaimed wood brings beauty and historic meaning to the design.

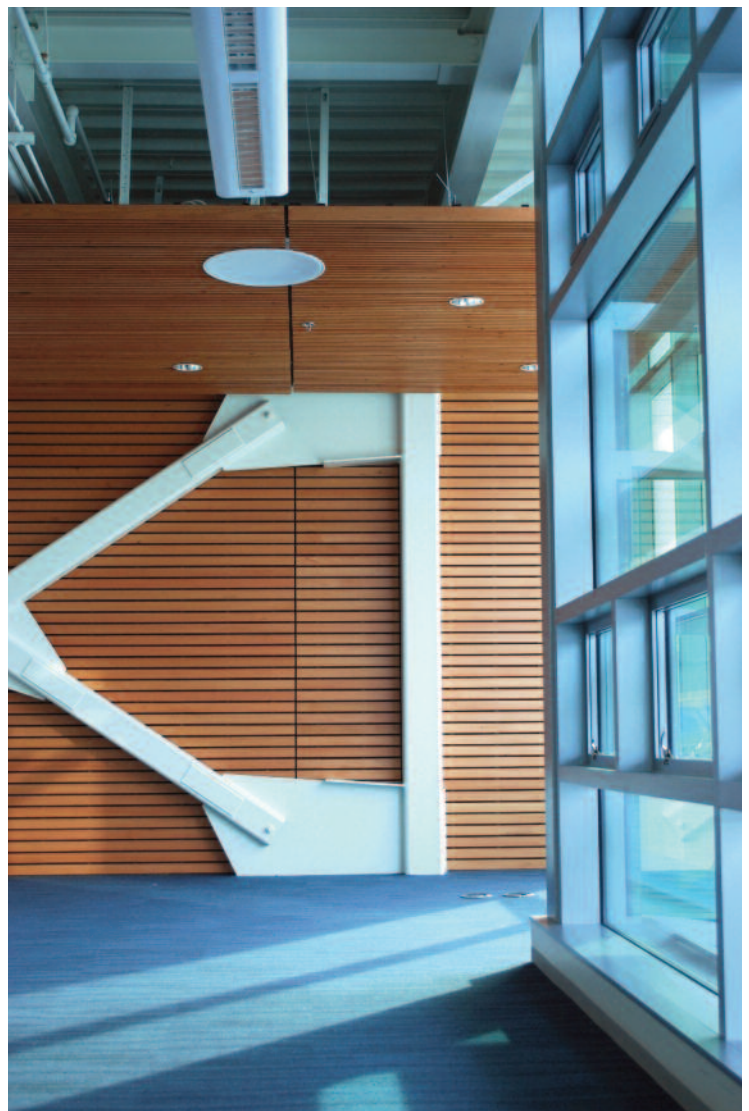
1,938 square feet of reclaimed wood wall and ceilings complement each other and contrast with a modern design palette.



The Center for Urban Waters in Tacoma, Washington was designed not only as a center for environmental research but also as a leading example of the green building revolution. The 51,205 square-foot facility, built next to the historic but environmentally troubled Thea Foss Waterway, is a story of redemption. The building is the new home for the city's Environmental Services Division labs and offices, as well as research labs for the University of Washington Tacoma and an office for the Puget Sound Partnership.

Once part of a thriving industrial center, the Thea Foss Waterway suffered from decades of neglect and industrial pollution and was all but abandoned by the time it was declared one of Washington state's first Superfund sites in 1983. The Center for Urban Waters building, for which the City of Tacoma achieved LEED Platinum certification, is part of a campaign to reverse the area's environmental record, providing a truly green location for cutting edge environmental research. Part of the building's story of redemption is the use of wood reclaimed from an old dock at the job site. The entry lobby features 9Wood

**Reclaimed wood is
a growing segment of
the wood ceiling industry.**

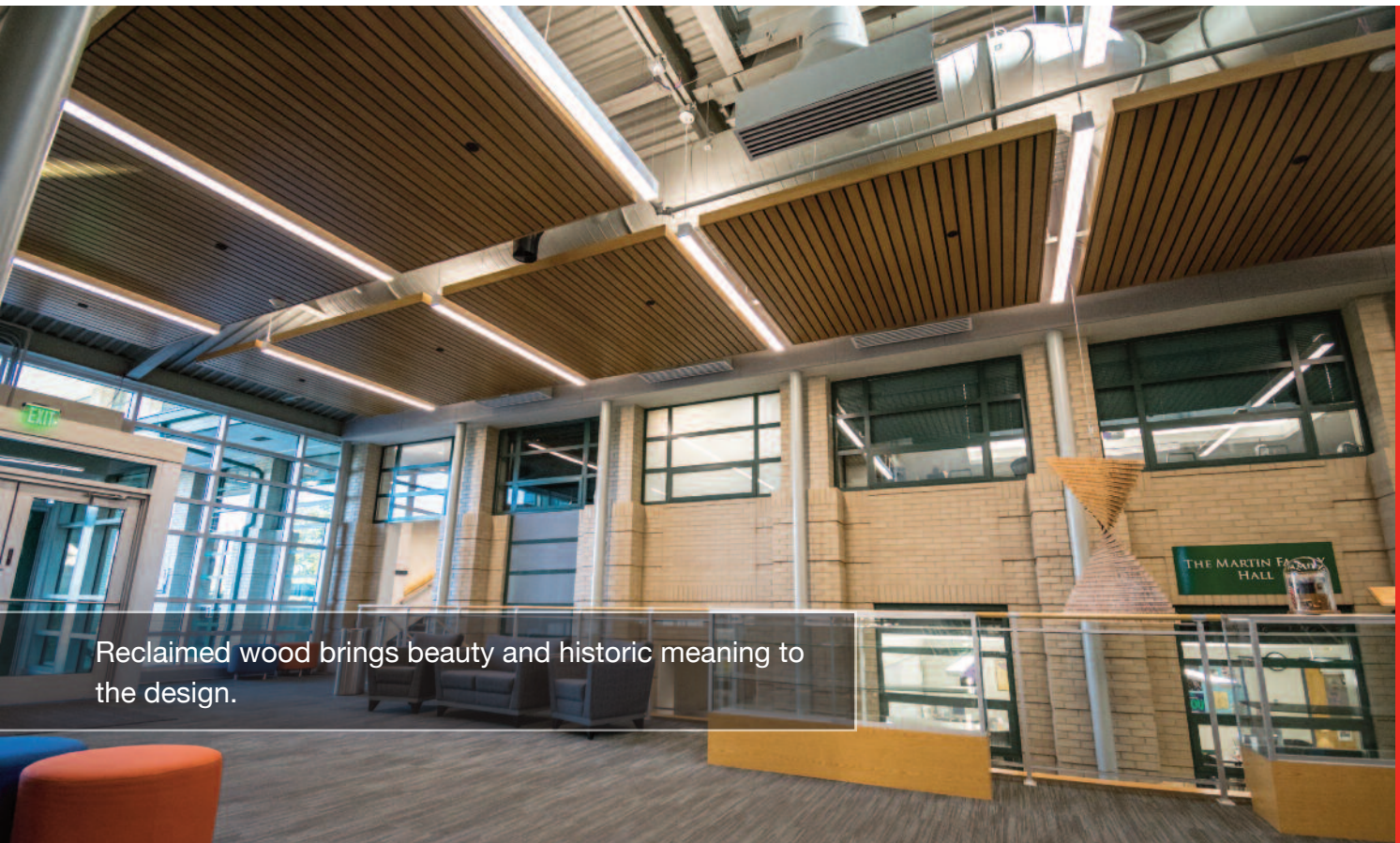


grilles and linears, as well as millwork remilled from the 100-foot-long Douglas Fir timbers.

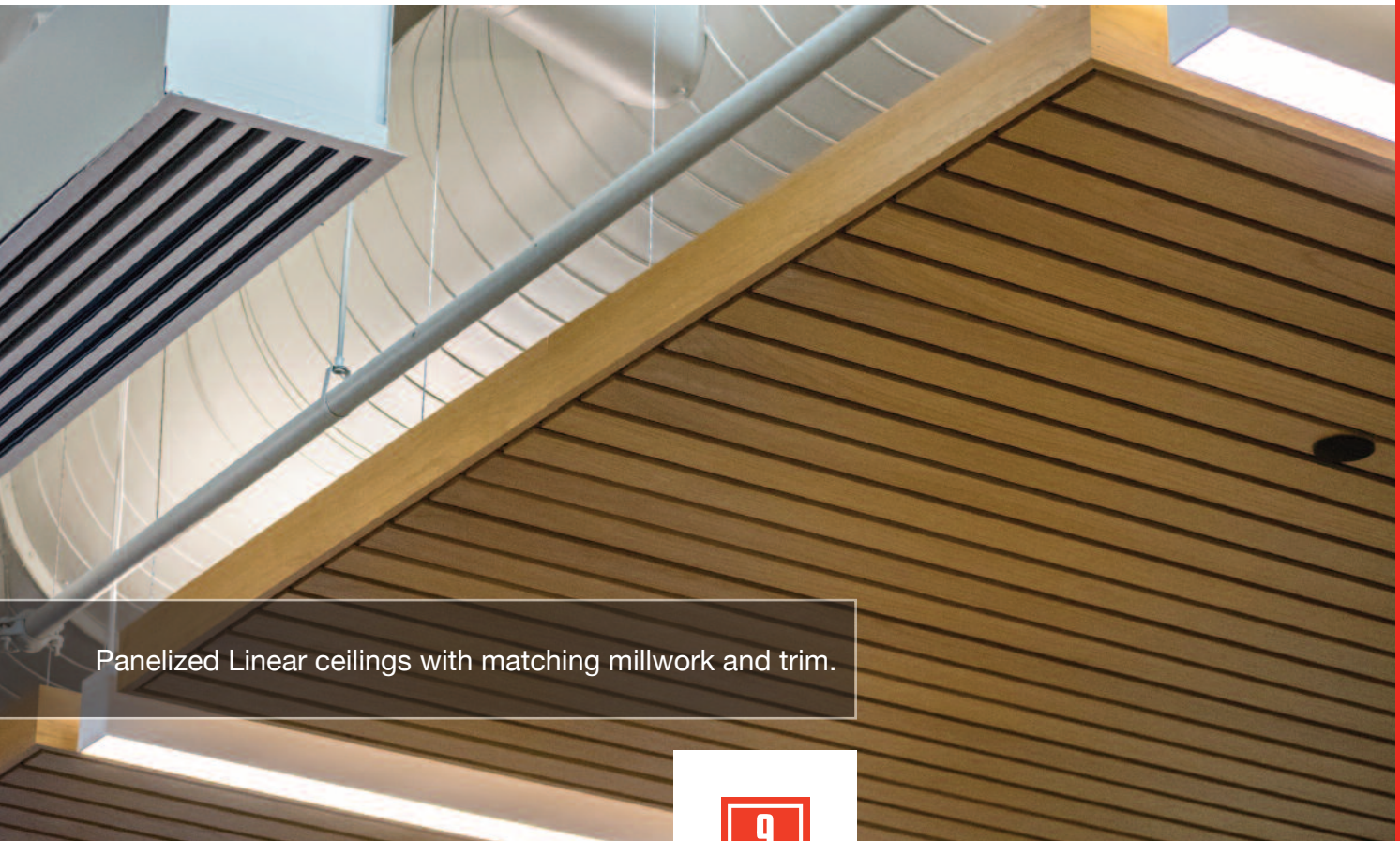
9Wood first got involved in fall of 2008 through Terra Mai, a reclaimed wood milling specialist, and their work with Perkins+Will Architects. Terra Mai worked alongside local 9Wood rep, Jerald Schwarz of Schwarz & Associates, to secure a joint specification.

The customized spec ensured the unique design intent would be achieved and utilize the site-specific reclaimed material in the ceiling and wall panels.

Designing a ceiling using reclaimed wood presented certain unique challenges. Urban Waters required close coordination between the architect and contractors to dial in the allowable *(continued on page 4)*



Reclaimed wood brings beauty and historic meaning to the design.



Panelized Linear ceilings with matching millwork and trim.

“character” of the finished wood (knot sizes, fastener holes, pitch pockets, etc.). The carefully monitored hands-on approach, however, produced an interior with a rich story and finish.

The atrium even has a kiosk that tells the story of the building’s construction process and LEED attributes.

Terra Mai took the lead as the “one stop shop” for the removal of foreign matter in the reclaimed wood and remilling to net sizes for the panels, including thick veneers for acoustic plank. 9Wood received the remilled material and fabricated the panels.

Although most of the foreign matter was removed, the 9Wood production team was more than surprised to find an embedded copper bullet while chopping the material! Apparently, the metal detectors weren’t 100% “bullet-proof.”

Reclaimed wood is a growing segment of the industry. It is true the extra coordination requires a premium; however, each reclaimed wood project requires a different approach and some are more involved than others. 9Wood is happy to be able to offer tailored support and coordination needed to deliver truly special projects like Urban Waters. This project showcases what can be achieved with a high level of collaboration between the architect, contractor, installer and manufacturer throughout the process.



Project Details

Center for Urban Waters
Tacoma, WA

Total Scope: 1,938 SF

Products: 1100 Cross Piece Grille
2100 Panelized Linear
3100 Acoustic Plank

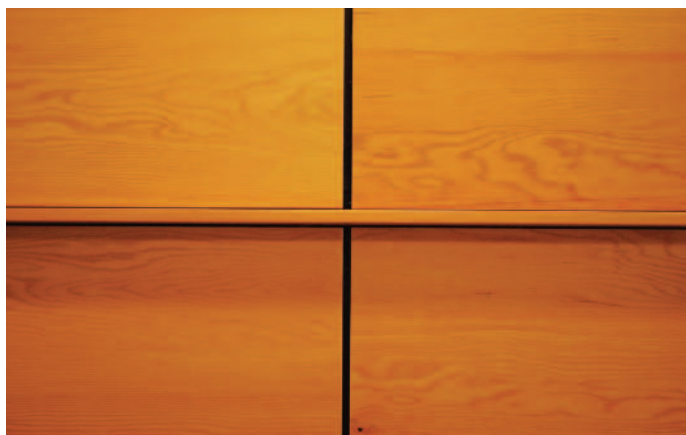
Architect: Perkins + Will

Contractor: 3D Group



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