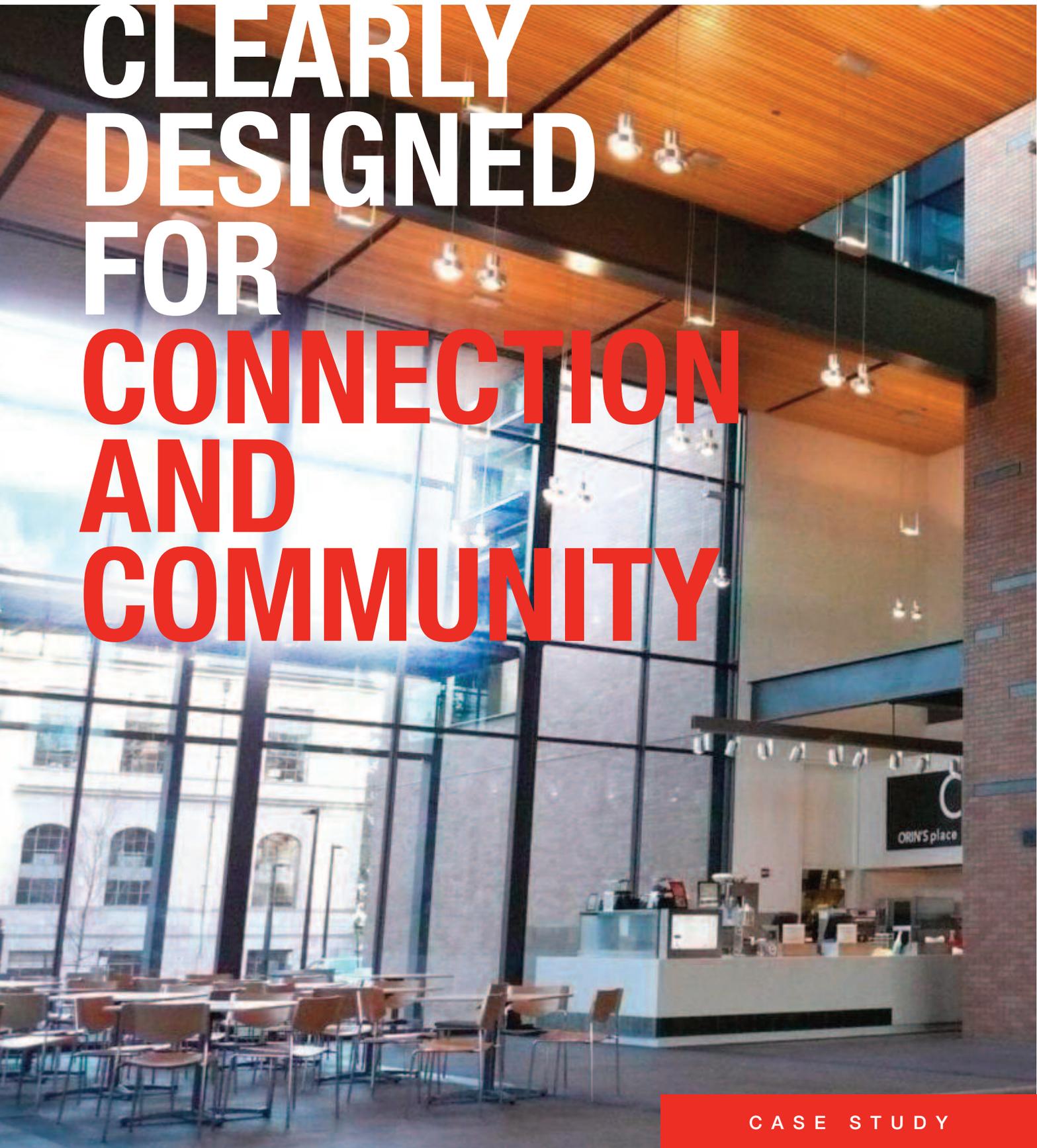


CLEARLY DESIGNED FOR CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY



CASE STUDY



DIVISION 9 ENGINEERED-TO-ORDER WOOD CEILINGS

Fostering Community, Building Collaboratively

UW Foster School Paccar Hall

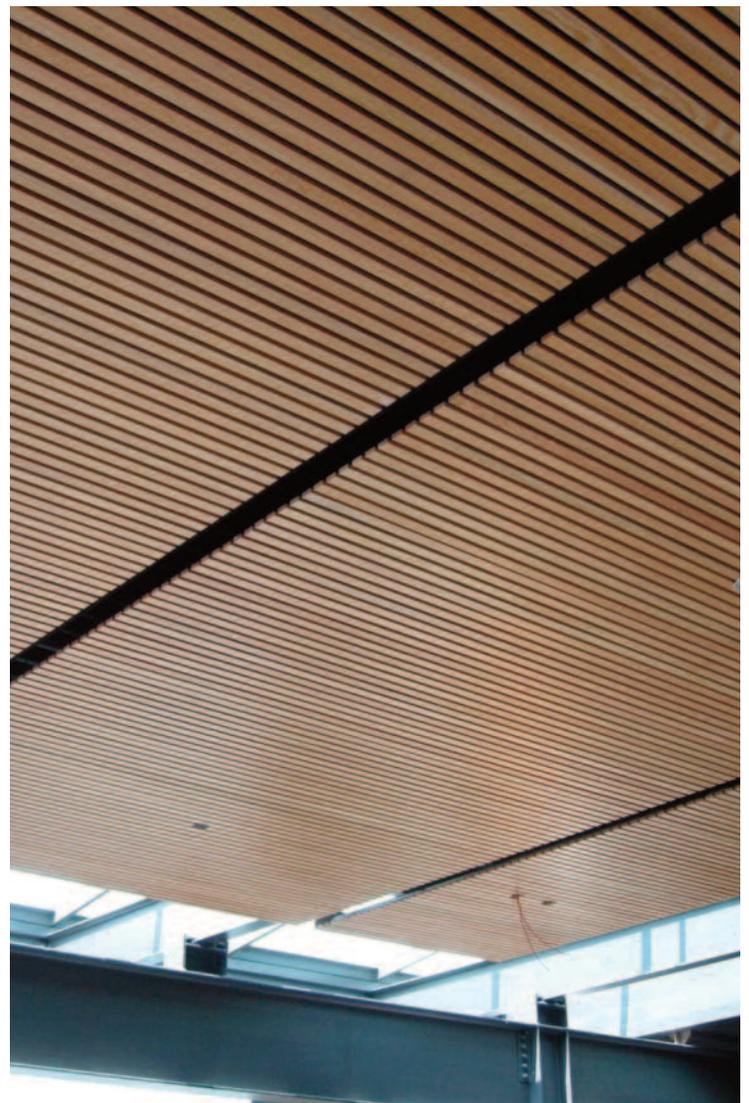
The building's interior is a warm and rich environment because of the combination of finishes, especially the wood wall and ceiling panels and their relationship with the brick, metal and glass.



Situated in the heart of the University of Washington's gothic campus, the brand new 132,000-square-foot Foster School of Business Paccar Hall sits next to UW's oldest building. Ten years in the planning process with another two years of construction, the \$95 million privately funded facility is the crown jewel of the Business School and a gathering place for students, faculty and visitors. Emphasizing the building's focus on "interconnectedness," the heavily glazed five-story building includes terraces overlooking the quad, a café, a 250-seat auditorium, administrative offices and dozens of classrooms. The interior prominently features FSC-certified vertical grain Douglas Fir linear wood panels in the four-story atrium. Many challenges from design through installation were overcome in order to furnish the matching wood ceiling and wall panels.

Paccar Hall, with its LEED Gold status, is heavily daylit. Because 45% of the building's surfaces are glass, wood offers a warm high-end finish to balance the glazing. Douglas Fir has strong ties to the region's heritage, so it was important to

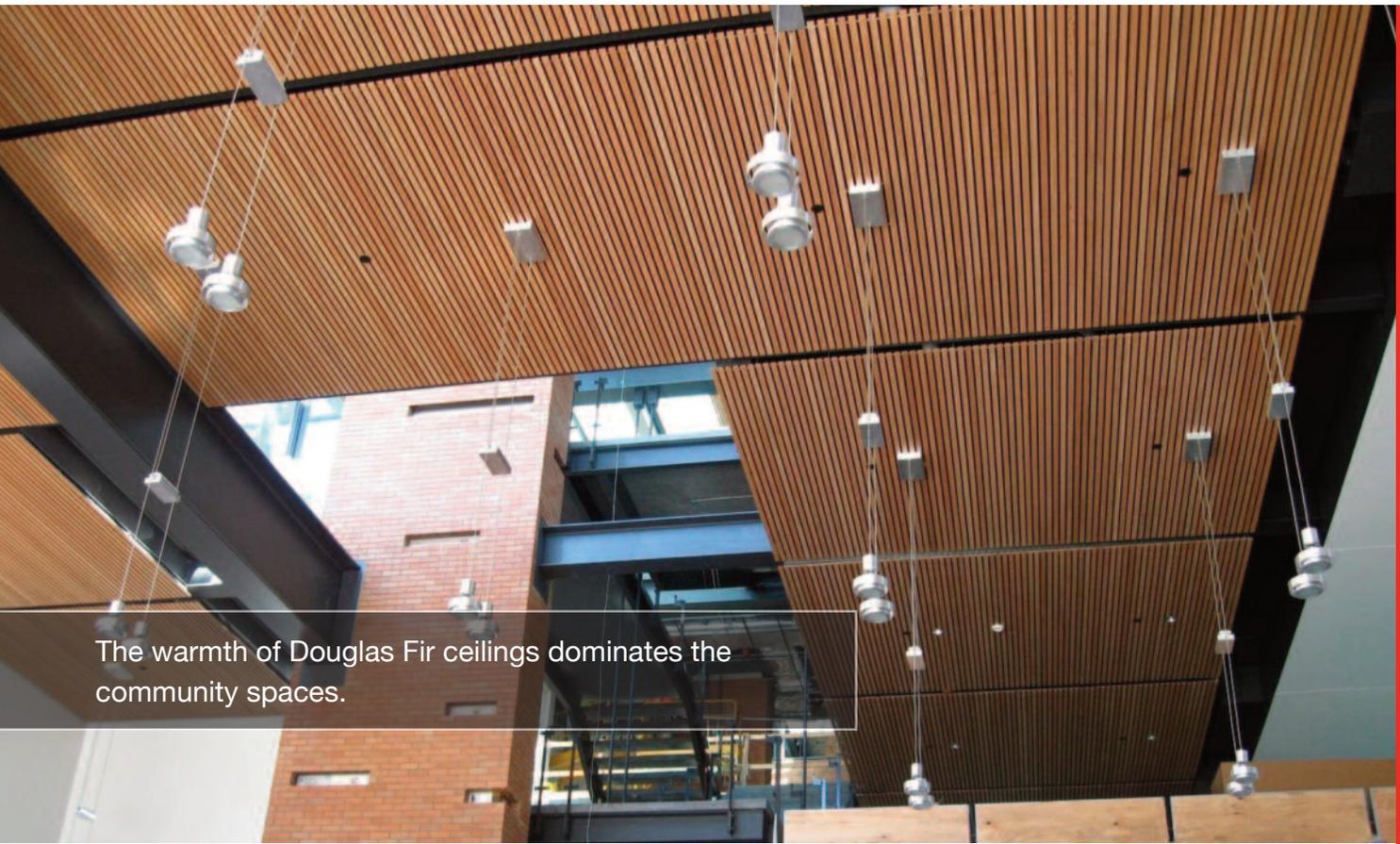
**The Paccar Hall project
was the very first
FSC-certified Douglas Fir
project for 9Wood.**



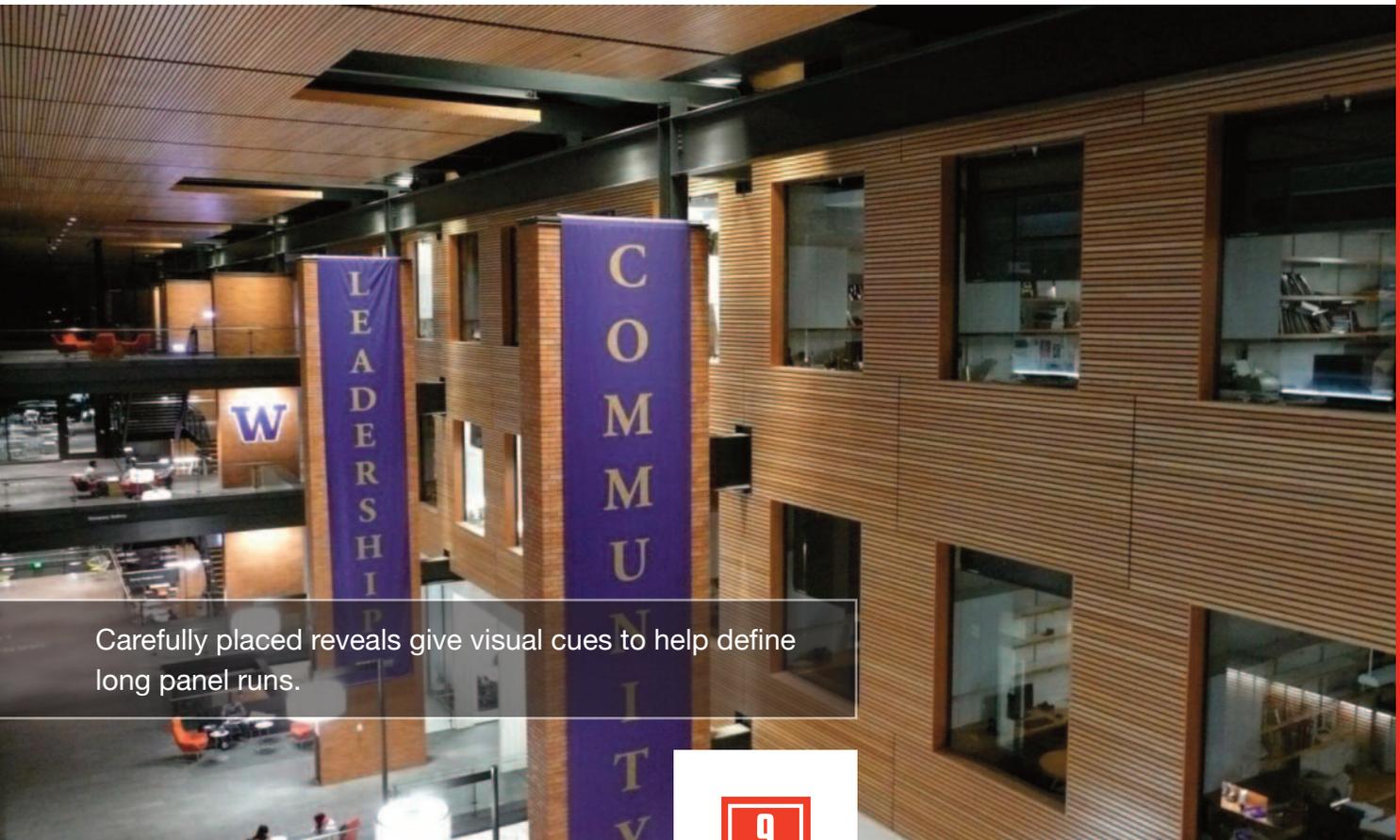
have the members extra thick and wide to match the grandeur and scale of the space. To accomplish this, custom modules were developed: 5/8" x 1 3/4" for the ceiling and a heftier 1 3/8" x 1 3/4" for the walls. Through a series of design samples, the 9Wood team worked with the

local rep to present appropriate species to the Seattle-based firm, LMN Architects. Because the wood extended beyond the interior atrium and into the exterior soffits, it was critical that the species met specific criteria. First, per the LEED requirements, the wood had to be harvested within 500 miles from

FSC-certified forests. In addition, it had to maintain structural integrity and architectural aesthetics even with exposure to the elements. This required 9Wood to dig deep within its supply chain.



The warmth of Douglas Fir ceilings dominates the community spaces.



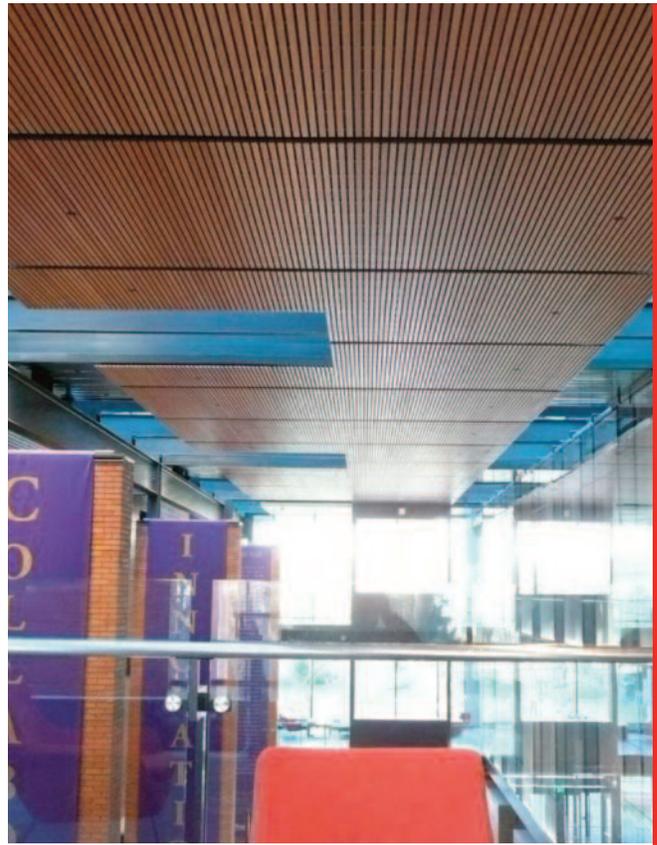
Carefully placed reveals give visual cues to help define long panel runs.

After thorough research and subsequent samples, FSC-certified vertical grain Douglas Fir was selected. The breakthrough came when 9Wood was able to source this wood from the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, an FSC-certified landowner in northern California. This location met the 500-mile requirement just barely. “It was 462 miles to be exact,” recounted the 9Wood rep. “I remember the number because they wouldn’t believe me at first!”

It turned out that the Paccar Hall project was the very first FSC-certified Douglas Fir project for 9Wood and likely a first in the suspended wood ceiling industry. Once the species and module were selected, the focus turned to the challenges that would be posed during installation of the 40-foot tall interior and exterior ceilings and custom-mitered walls.

The ceiling posed some real challenges. First, the 12-foot long ceiling panels ran end to end for 250 feet and would have to be aligned nearly perfectly. From the fourth-story walkways, the close-up sightline would reveal any misalignment along the long run. Absolute precision was required of the installing contractor’s crew as they moved from bay to bay. The panels weighed about 40 pounds each and had to be raised in a scissor lift for both for the interior and exterior. There was little room for recourse once a panel was installed because of the extreme coordination required to maneuver the scissor lift around other trades.

The custom wall panels are located along the first level and require floating factory-cut mitered corners to allow for backlighting. The 9Wood Project Manager worked with the installer to develop corners that would allow factory-cut precision with a field-install friendly approach. These corners would have to stand the test of minor impact by passers by and rowdy undergrads. 9Wood worked closely with the installer as a wall-specific set of shop drawings were generated (in addition to the ceilings) to ensure that every detail was thought through.



Project Details

**UW Foster School of Business,
Paccar Hall
Seattle, WA**

Total Scope: 17,704 SF

Product: 2100 Panelized Linear

Architect: LMN Architects

Contractor: Forrest Sound Products



DIVISION 9 ENGINEERED-TO-ORDER WOOD CEILINGS

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