

CASE STUDY

# PEAK PERFORMANCE

*SCOTT C. KELLER BUILDING, WOODBURY SCHOOL  
OF BUSINESS, UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY*

*OREM, UTAH*



DIVISION 9 CUSTOM WOOD CEILINGS

*The wood cross piece grille ceiling above a staircase at the Scott C. Keller Building at the Woodbury School of Business at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, features panels cut and finished in the field and positioned precisely to complete the architect's design intent.*



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# “We had a large wood ceiling in one direction and two lower clouds in another.”

The \$75 million Scott C. Keller Building at the Woodbury School of Business at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, has 205 offices and 30 classrooms serving 12,000 students.

The 12,905 SF wood ceilings at a newly built western business school include 11 different wood and wood finish compositions, some of which combine to form patterns representing mountain peaks and waterfalls.

“We had multiple zones with different scales and programmatic uses that warranted the different sizes and finishes [of the wood ceilings],” says Todd Kelsey, AIA, LEED AP, principal at Method Studio, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Panels form patterns.** The installation was complicated. The ceiling subcontractor had to keep straight 1,614 individual wood panels, of which 51 were unique. Some panels with multiple

wood species had to be cut and meticulously combined to form “mountain” silhouettes in the ceiling plane. Wood grille panels in another area were cut and combined to form a “wood waterfall.”

“We had a large wood ceiling in one direction and two lower clouds in another,” says says Brandon Baum, foreman, Golder Acoustics, West Jordan, Utah. “We integrated the ceilings with wall grilles to create a ‘wood waterfall’ effect down to the first floor.”

Cutting was done in the field. A crew of up to 15 members worked on the wood ceilings over six months. They stained or edge-banded the cut ends on site. Care was given to position the panels properly to create the desired patterns.

“To watch my guys put up panels, snap chalk lines and then pull every panel back down — 20 to 30 rows in some cases — and cut, stain and edge-band them, and then place them with perfect



“Large two-story open spaces required large wood grille pieces and wide gaps between the members to match the scale of the rooms,” says Todd Kelsey, AIA, LEED AP, principal at Method Studio in Salt Lake City.



## PROJECT

The Scott C. Keller Building  
Woodbury School of Business  
Utah Valley University  
Orem, Utah

## DESIGN ARCHITECT

Method Studio  
Salt Lake City, Utah

## GENERAL CONTRACTOR

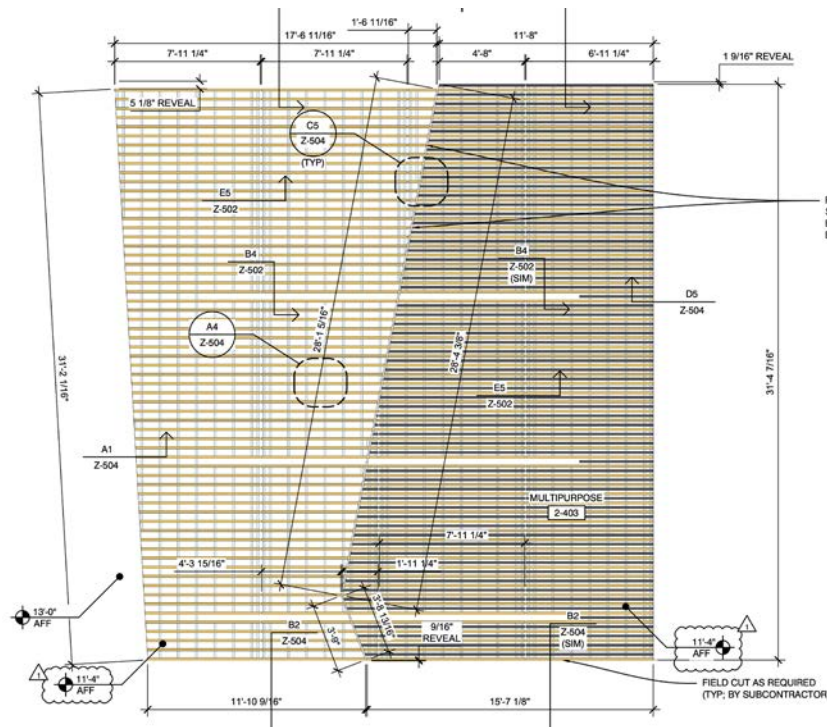
Layton Construction  
Sandy, Utah

## CEILING AND WALL CONTRACTOR

Golder Acoustics  
West Jordan, Utah

## SYSTEMS

Custom engineered wood ceilings  
from 9Wood  
Springfield, Ore.



9Wood issued colored shop drawings to show the "mountain" motif that ceiling panels with varying wood species and finishes would create.

The 4th floor multipurpose room combines wood cross piece grille panels – some light in color, some dark – into a single plane to form the silhouette of a "mountain."



“ IT'S ONE OF THE NICEST CEILINGS I'VE EVER SEEN. IT HAS THE PRECISION AND ACCURACY... INTENDED.

2-inch gaps between systems, was amazing,” says Bob Davis, owner of Golder Acoustics. “It’s one of the nicest ceilings I’ve ever seen. It has the precision and accuracy the designer intended.”

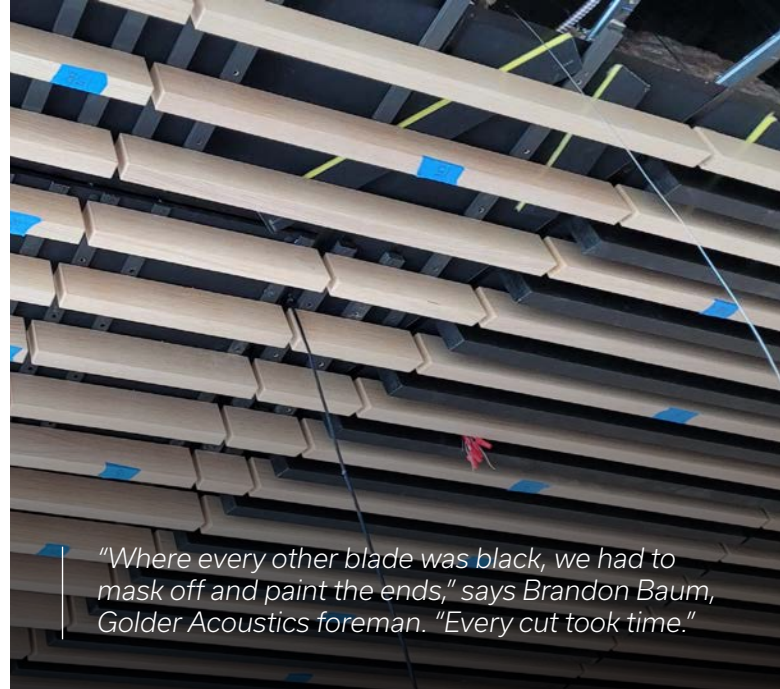
**9Wood logged extra hours.** The ceiling manufacturer also went over and beyond to meet the design aesthetic. The manufacturer provided samples of all 11 wood ceiling combinations to the architect and created special shop drawings of the wood ceilings.

The shop drawings included labels to identify each cross piece grille and acoustic plank ceiling to help installation crews track the placement of all 1,614 panels, which included solid white oak, white oak veneer, solid western hemlock members in a variety of finishes.

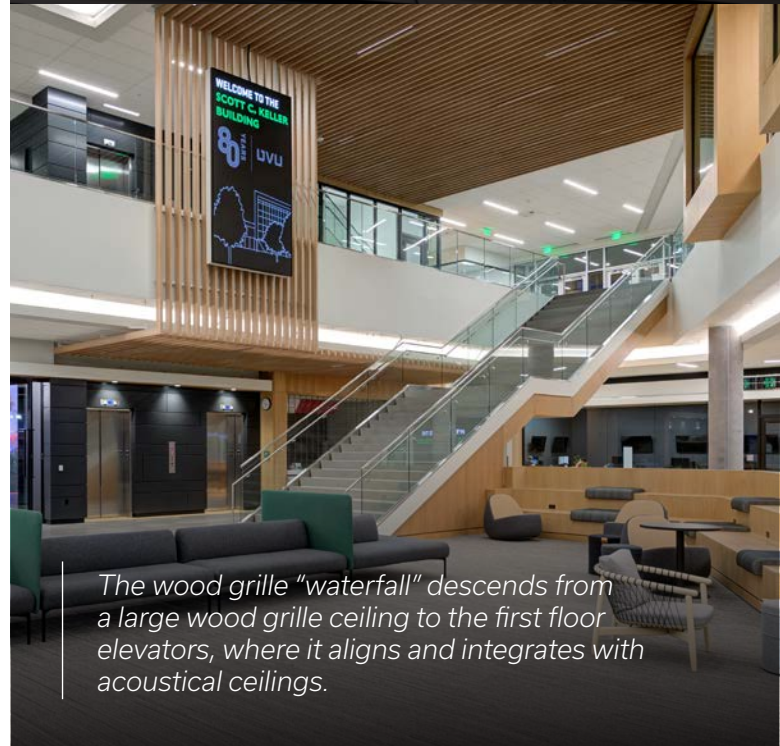
Also, the manufacturer issued the shop drawings in color, a level of detail helpful to the execution of the project. Since some panels had alternating species of wood, and backers painted to match adjacent wall colors, the colored drawings confirmed to the architect, through the GC, how the design intent would be met and showed the installer where to position each panel.

The drafting team invested 180 hours preparing the colored shop drawings, shop drawing revisions and other instructions for the project.

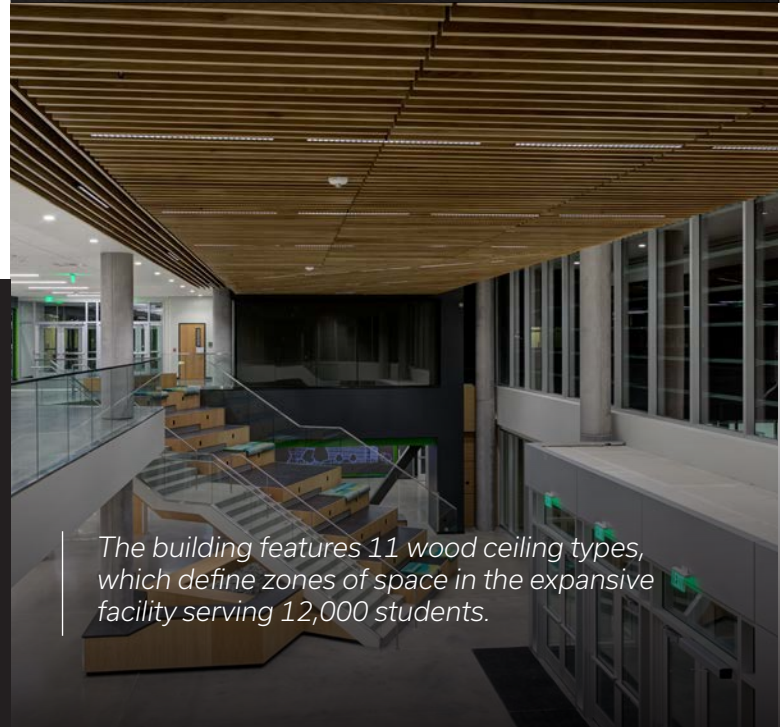
“The number of man hours invested on the shop drawing front alone was a lot higher than I have ever seen for a project this size,” says Ben Chase, 9Wood project manager.



“Where every other blade was black, we had to mask off and paint the ends,” says Brandon Baum, Golder Acoustics foreman. “Every cut took time.”



The wood grille “waterfall” descends from a large wood grille ceiling to the first floor elevators, where it aligns and integrates with acoustical ceilings.



The building features 11 wood ceiling types, which define zones of space in the expansive facility serving 12,000 students.



9wood.com

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Photography by Endeavour Architectural Photography

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