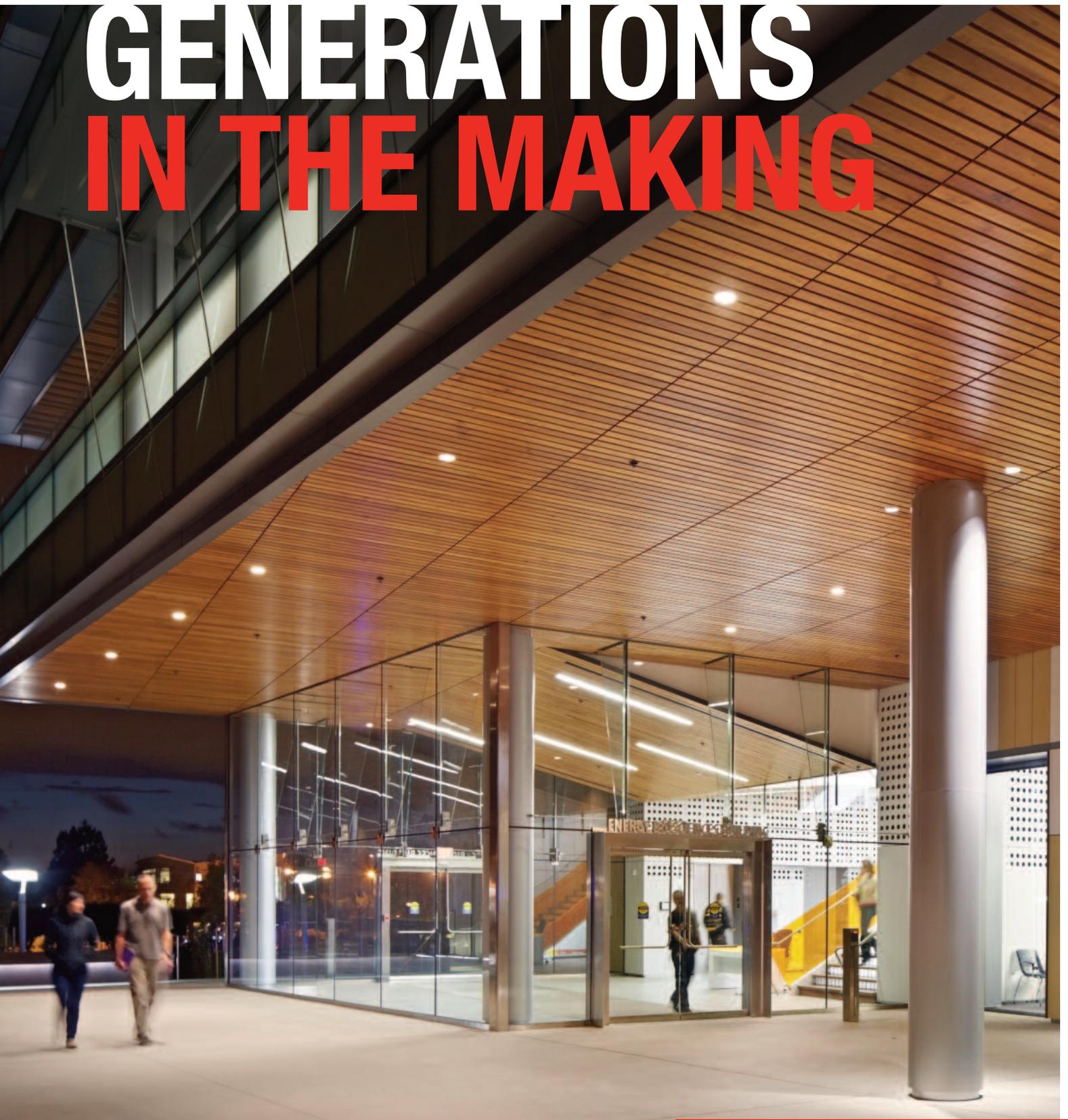


GENERATIONS IN THE MAKING



CASE STUDY



DIVISION 9 ENGINEERED-TO-ORDER WOOD CEILINGS

Generations in the Making

University of California, Berkeley – Helios Energy Biosciences Building

Nineteenth- and twentieth-century reclaimed Indonesian Teak finds its way into a stunning interior and exterior ceiling design at UC Berkeley’s energy research facility.



Tectona grandis is the only true species of Teak, says Ken Westrick, owner of TerraMai, the reclaimed Teak provider. The Teak, used at the Helios Energy Biosciences Building, was “harvested from old Indonesian houses and factories built 50 to 125 years ago,” he says.

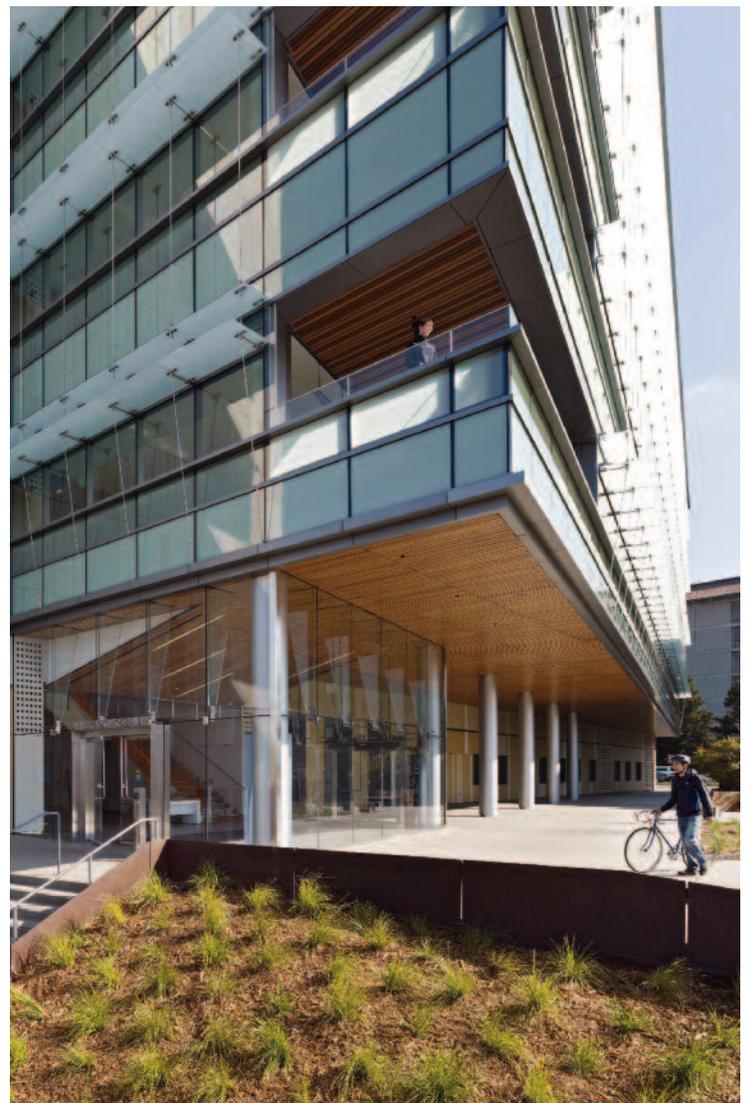
The order for reclaimed Teak was placed 5 months in advance of the project.

“The forethought you have to put into a material lead-time like that is just intense,” says 9Wood project manager Rebecca Hart. “We got the project its own grade. No one has bought reclaimed Teak at this level of premium grade, so far as we know.”

It suits the researchers at this energy biosciences building who are developing biofuels and biomass resources for the future. Everything here is about the environment.

“The Teak species is a beauty that will last,” says architect Johnny Wong of SmithGroup. “It tends to do well with moisture. It’s a stable, dense wood.”

“This is a truly custom, one-in-the-world ceiling.”

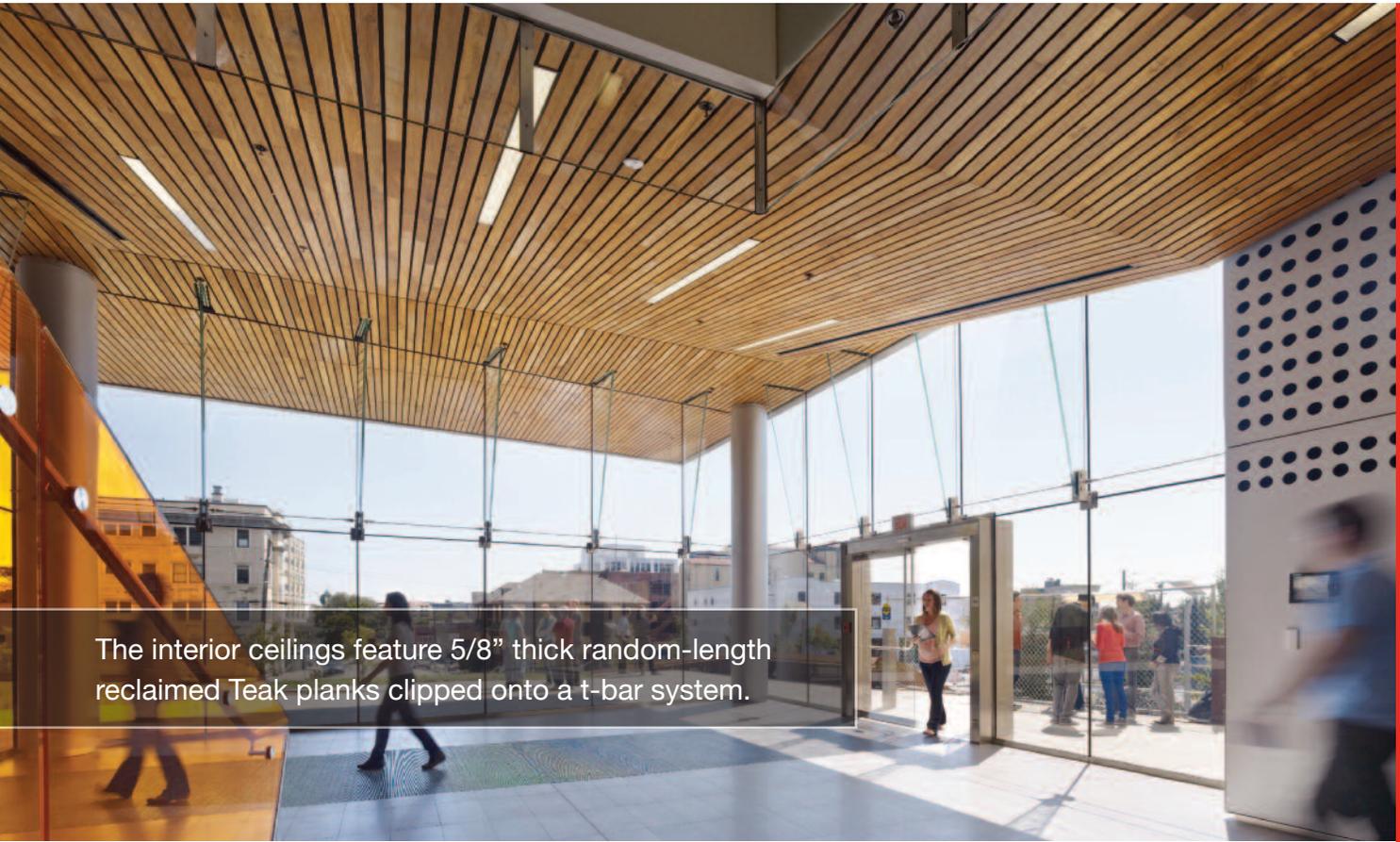


Reclaimed Teak serves as a first-floor underside soffit. It was custom-sized — 1” thick — to meet the fire-rating code. The exterior planks feature a metal mesh screen to keep out bugs and birds. The mesh was sandwiched between the members and the backers — a modular system that visually matches up with the interior ceiling plane.

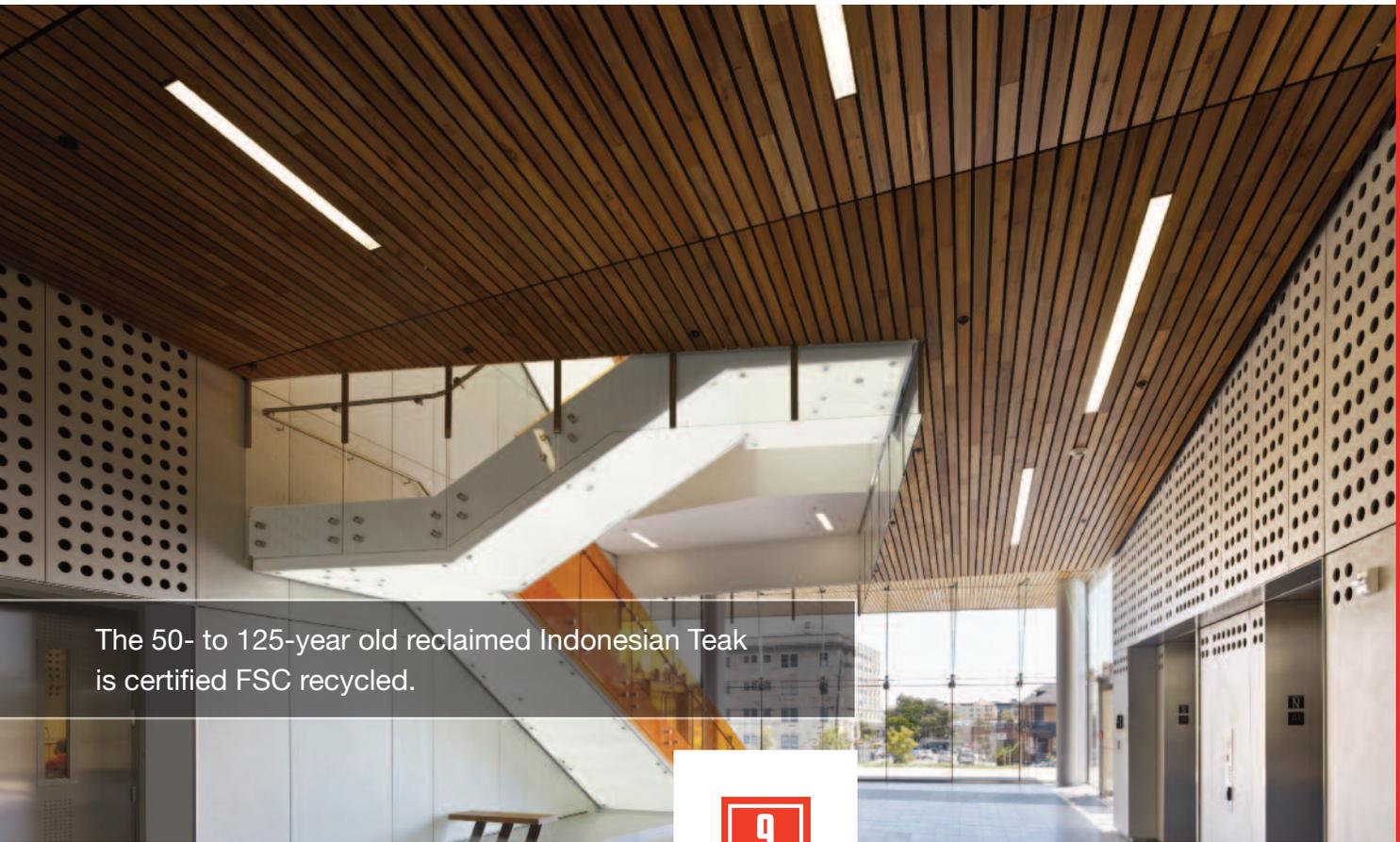
Reclaimed Teak ceilings fill the lobbies and upper-floor corridors. They create “inspiration space,” says Wong.

“Creative ideas don’t necessarily happen in front of a lab bench,” he says, “but often through collaboration in a more informal setting.”

“We went through a very stringent screening process,” says Wong, who required premium reclaimed Teak grading. Wong even personally visited the 9Wood *(continued on page 4)*



The interior ceilings feature 5/8" thick random-length reclaimed Teak planks clipped onto a t-bar system.



The 50- to 125-year old reclaimed Indonesian Teak is certified FSC recycled.



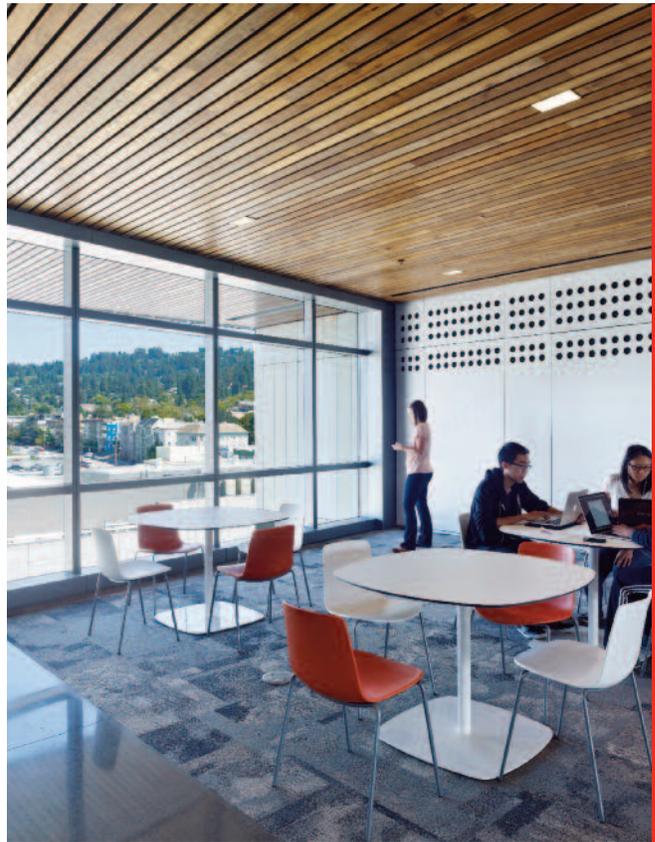
factory in Oregon to review the reclaimed Teak planks before manufacturing, and again at the job site to inspect them before install.

9Wood and Teak supplier TerraMai set up a premium grading specification unique to this project.

“This is a truly custom, one-in-the-world ceiling,” says a 9Wood spokesperson.

Whereas others might tolerate more holes in each reclaimed wood plank, this project allowed only four holes (1” to 1-9/16”) per 4’ of length. A special epoxy made from Teak sanding dust was required to fill holes. “It was challenging to achieve the spec and minimize waste,” recalled project manager Rebecca Hart.

The architect is pleased. “We created a lab building that doesn’t have an institutional look,” Wong says. “We brought life to it.”



Project Details

University of California, Berkeley –
Helios Energy Research Facility
Berkeley, CA

Total Scope: 12,791 SF

Products: 2300 Continuous Linear,
2100 Panelized Linear

Architect: SmithGroup JJR

Contractor: Performance Contracting



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