

CASE STUDY

# THE PERFECT LINEUP

*TELUS SKY  
CALGARY, ALBERTA*



DIVISION 9 ENGINEERED-TO-ORDER WOOD CEILINGS

*Telus Sky, a 59-story, mixed-use high-rise in Calgary, Alta., features 8,000 SF of 9Wood multi-curve, S-curve and mitered cross piece grille ceilings with FSC-certified, plain sliced, white maple veneered, 3/4" by 5" members and 3/4" trim pieces.*

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## **“You don’t see ceilings like this in most lobbies. Most ceilings are flat, sometimes sloped. These are wavy on multiple levels.”**

The 59-story Telus Sky high-rise in Calgary, Alberta, offers 326 residential units on 28 floors above offices. The LEED Platinum building is set to achieve a 30% reduction in energy demand and features 8,000 SF of straight and compound curved wood cross piece grille ceilings from 9Wood.

“The wood felt the right material to give a warm and soft feeling to the lobby, otherwise treated in hard and severe materials,” says Francesca Portesine, director of interiors at architectural firm Bjarke Ingels Group, New York, N.Y. “The wood slats create a monolithic ceiling without additional elements distracting the view.”

**3D modeling.** ICON West Construction Corp., Vancouver, British Columbia, had the entire project scope, serving as both the general contractor and wood grille ceilings installer for the project.

“We managed the design of the ceilings, buying the product and installing it,” says Aaron Macdonald, project manager at ICON West Construction.

The ceilings are part of a series of vertical, horizontal and compound curved surfaces and vast, complicated runs of grille member slats that lined up perfectly.

“The dimensions had to be exact — down to the millimeter,” Macdonald says.

In some places, the grille ceilings have upturns — mitered grille members set perpendicularly at ceiling perimeters. In other places, the cross piece grille ceilings transition to compound curves that flow in waves from section to section.

“You don’t see ceilings like this in most lobbies,” says Brad Leonard, project manager at 9Wood. “Most ceilings are flat, sometimes sloped. These are wavy on multiple levels.”



*The monolithic wood grille ceilings create horizontal and vertical surfaces that line up perfectly. The general contractor’s surveying team plotted the lobby’s GPS points, creating a point cloud that enabled 9Wood to produce cross piece grille panels that line up and seem to float in the space.*



## *PROJECT*

Telus Sky  
Calgary, Alta.

## *ARCHITECT*

Bjarke Ingels Group  
New York, N.Y.

## *GENERAL CONTRACTOR & CEILING INSTALLER*

ICON West Construction Corp.  
Vancouver, B.C.

## *SYSTEMS*

Custom engineered  
wood ceilings from 9Wood,  
Springfield, Ore.



*3D modeling of the ceiling design contributed to a precise ceiling installation. "The product lined up so easily it wasn't necessary to do any rework," says Aaron Macdonald, project manager at ICON West Construction.*

The execution of the ceilings required a lot of planning.

"We detailed these ceilings to the nth degree," Macdonald says. "Working with 9Wood, we took all known and unknown points in the lobby and populated one, precise, 3D model."

"[9Wood] had to rely on us to be super accurate with what we were seeing and needed to be built," Macdonald adds. "We needed precise field measurements, so we made sure the communication was spot-on between our companies."

ICON West Construction hired a GPS surveying team to plot the lobbies and create a point cloud, which helped 9Wood perfect a model of the as-built spaces. 9Wood produced cross piece grille panels matching these exact survey specifications.

"If one dimension was off, then they'd all be off," Leonard says. "But it was on the money."



*“ THE WOOD SLATS CREATE A MONOLITHIC  
CEILING WITHOUT ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS  
DISTRACTING THE VIEW*

*The architect's director of interiors chose to use both dark and light color palettes. The light wood tones give "the feeling of being outdoors," he says.*



**Perfect sequencing.** Another challenge involved synchronizing the orders for cross piece grille panels from 9Wood with the work and staffing required by ICON West Construction on the job.

"We had to sequence it precisely," Macdonald says. "We were coordinating the fill-in of MEP equipment above the ceilings, timing it so the panels could follow – and have all the grilles line up perfectly."

"These complex elements had to come out of production perfectly sized," Leonard says. "And they did."

"Kudos to the contractor for doing the GPS survey and providing exact dimensions, Leonard adds. "ICON West Construction is one of the sharpest and most competent contractors I've ever worked with."



*The wood grille ceilings flow as a compound wave in the coffee shop. 9Wood used a GPS point cloud of the space to build a 36' by 8' mockup of the ceiling before its installation.*



*The wood grille lobby ceilings transition to an 11-story atrium, allowing occupants to see all the way up a green wall filled with live plants.*



*Grille panels appear on ceilings, walls and mirrored reflections. The key to lining up the slats was accurate measurements of the as-built space.*



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