



## PROJECT PROFILE

# STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Escondido Village  
Palo Alto, CA

**STANFORD UNIVERSITY** is a private research institution in Palo Alto, California, with more than 16,000 students, including 9,000 graduate students. With the growing demand for housing in the Bay Area, Stanford University was faced with the challenge of housing the large graduate population.

To meet the needs of the students, the University decided to remove several low-rise apartment buildings and develop Escondido Village Graduate Residences. The five million square foot project was commissioned to be constructed in three years.

General Contractors, Vance Brown Builders, enlisted California Drywall, known for their commitment to innovation and process improvement to help lead the project. California Drywall, one of the largest specialty contractors in California, worked with USG to deliver innovative solutions that could fit the University's demand for fast, easy installation that reduced construction time. California Drywall and USG delivered a unique ceiling solution for the residencies that improved installation times, reduced waste, and accelerated delivery times.

USG's Wall-to-Wall Drywall Suspension System and USG Sheetrock® Brand EcoSmart Panels Firecode® X were used throughout the residencies. The Wall-to-Wall system is ideal in corridors and small spaces and eliminates the need for hanger wires and cross tees—perfect for the rooms within the University's graduate residences. USG worked with distributor L&W Supply to provide California Drywall four different custom grid lengths, including spans of 15 feet and 7.5 inches. USG was able to manufacture the grid at the nearby Stockton, California plant which helped reduce production and transportation timelines. Paul Clark from L&W Supply explains, "USG was the only one who could pull off the custom sizes in the time frame that was given. We immediately reached out to USG and they began making the grid at the unique lengths so we could all succeed!"

USG provided an ultra-lightweight and sustainable panel, Sheetrock® Brand EcoSmart Panels, which were installed onto the Wall-to-Wall ceiling system and used throughout the building's interior partitions. To reduce installation times

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a deadline."**

—PAUL CLARK, L&W Supply

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—GEORGE INIGUEZ, Project Executive

and save on labor cost, L&W Supply pre-packaged the exact materials needed for each individual room within the residences. “The pre-packaging of materials made California Drywall’s processes and lives a lot easier” said Clark.

California Drywall and USG’s collaboration and innovation continued throughout the project. To expedite the construction, parts of the building were prefabricated offsite and California Drywall needed a custom length moisture- and mold-resistant panel that could be used in the prefabricated assemblies. Michael Gutierrez, VP of Preconstruction/ Estimating for California Drywall, initiated the preconstruction. Working to meet the needs of the customer, USG manufactured a custom 54” Sheetrock® Brand Mold Tough® Panel. The wider

**25%  
SAVINGS  
IN COST**

panel enabled California Drywall to install panels horizontally, which increased productivity and produced minimal-to-no waste. “We saved 25% in cost because of faster installs and waste reduction. The custom cut tees and Mold Tough® Panels made the difference” said George Iniguez, Project Executive for California Drywall.

The collaboration paid off. On track to open in 2020 and 2022, Escondido Village will provide more than 2000 new graduate student beds. USG, California Drywall and L&W Supply ingenuity led to time and cost-savings throughout the project. “The timeline was one of the biggest concerns and USG delivered—they never missed a deadline,” Clark explains. “Our success with this project has opened the door for us to win even more work by offering the products and solutions that only USG can provide.”

**USG Drywall  
Suspension System  
Wall-to-Wall  
reduces or  
eliminates cross  
tees, hanger wires  
or other  
intermediate  
supports**

