

Project Profile



Renovation Creates Functional Showplace

Application/Building Type:

Education Environments

Project Name:

Buzzard Hall, Eastern Illinois University

Location:

Charleston, Illinois

Architect:

Rettberg-Gruber Architects

Drywall and Painting Contractor:

Carter Construction Services

Featured Products:

SHEETROCK® Brand Gypsum Panels,

FIRECODE® Core

SHEETROCK® Brand First Coat Primer

SHEETROCK® Brand Tuf-Tex® Wall and Ceiling Texture

SHEETROCK® Brand Joint Compound



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The \$11.4 million renovation of Buzzard Hall on the Eastern Illinois University campus, Charleston, Ill., added much-needed functional features while updating the building's appearance. Buzzard Hall is the home of the 10,000-student university's College of Education, departments of journalism and radio and television, and student publications. As a result of the two-year project, the structure now has modern classrooms, a new two-story glass entry, an open two-story interior hub and the largest auditorium on campus.

"We looked at the building from the students' perspective," said Bob Gruber, president, Rettberg-Gruber Architects, Champaign, Ill., the firm that designed and managed the project. "We didn't want it to be so grand that they'd feel out of place, yet we worked to create a special atmosphere for them."

This focus on the student is particularly apparent in the two-story hub that is an extension of the new entry and auditorium lobby. The first story contains a bistro-like student lounge with a vending kiosk and a series of canopied windows where the campus newspaper sells subscriptions, the radio and TV stations sell advertising, and student organizations sell fund-raising merchandise. The second story consists of a balcony around the entire hub that serves as an area for studying and relaxing between classes.

To make the interior visually appealing while staying within budget, Gruber included gypsum board column details and gypsum board pilasters and beams at department entrances. These were constructed of 5/8-inch SHEETROCK® brand gypsum panels, FIRECODE® Core, finished with a variety of SHEETROCK® brand joint compounds, primed with SHEETROCK® brand First Coat and painted with a single finish coat. The architects called for a range of paint colors to make the finished spaces more inviting.

SHEETROCK First Coat caused the architectural elements to appear flawless because it is formulated specifically to equalize the porosity and textural differences between wallboard and joint compound surfaces. Chris Carter, vice president, Carter Construction Services, Champaign, Ill., the drywall and painting contractor for the project, said, "We like to use First Coat because it gives a great result with just one finish coat. It hides imperfections and makes our installation and paint job look good."

Another distinctive design feature is a corridor wainscot that was created with SHEETROCK® Brand Tuf-Tex® wall and ceiling texture. The 4-foot-high wainscot includes a horizontal vinyl reveal at 2-and-4-foot heights. The surface was covered with the texture, which was spray-applied and knocked down. It was then painted with SHEETROCK First Coat primer and one coat of epoxy paint.*

Gruber selected the Tuf-Tex texture product for Buzzard Hall's high-wear areas such as corridors and the student lounge because it is hard, durable and easy to touch up. He said, "It also adds visual interest to the wainscot for relatively little cost."

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