

Project Profile



CURVATURA™ 3-D Ceiling System Success Story

Application/Building Type:

Educational Environments

Project Name:

Hamilton High School

Location:

Hamilton, Michigan

Architect:

GMB Architects-Engineers

Subcontractor:

The Bouma Corporation

Featured Products:

USG™ Drywall Suspension System

CURVATURA™ 3-D Ceiling System

SHEETROCK® Brand 1/4-inch Flexible

Gypsum Panels



usg.com

Intriguing school design has arrived. Today's schools feature bright interiors, curved hallways and a greater use of specialty 3-D ceilings. Consider the recently opened Hamilton High School in Hamilton, Mich., a 200,000-square-foot facility built on a radius and designed by GMB Architects-Engineers, Holland, Mich.

Imagine walking down a 12-foot-wide curved corridor. Up above, another curved surface—a suspended gypsum drywall ceiling—arches from a height of 12 feet on one side to a 23-foot height on the other. The vaulted, suspended drywall assembly transitions flawlessly into curved, gold-colored, perforated metal panels. Between the vaulted ceilings, bulkheads made of black suspension trim and green-painted, pie-shaped drywall hold recessed lighting fixtures. Barrel vault ceilings built on a radius? How was it done? The architect turned to interior finishes subcontractor The Bouma Corporation, Grand Rapids, Mich. The Bouma Corporation has been in business for more than 50 years and has developed a reputation for high-quality work. On this job, the company had the contract for the walls, ceilings, exterior framing and EIFS applications.

Jeff Moomey, Bouma's project coordinator, said his company and the architect combined two systems—the [USG™ drywall suspension system](#) and [CURVATURA™ 3-D ceiling system](#) from USG Interiors, Inc. These systems comprise the curved ceilings at Hamilton High School. "We used the [USG drywall suspension system](#) grid for the entire ceiling," said Moomey.

"It was available in the radius we needed, and we were able to attach both the drywall and the [CURVATURA™](#) panels to it."

Moomey described the ceiling systems as very workable. The challenge on the job, he said, was building the ceilings around the school's mechanical systems, which left little room for error. "The system of main tees and cross tees made it easy," said Moomey. "Actually, we had a lot of fun putting it together."

Moomey said his crew built the ceiling bulkheads first. Then they installed the suspension grid and overlaid it with 4-foot-by-4-foot-by-1/2-inch [SHEETROCK® brand gypsum panels](#). Once the crews got the panel lengths down, they began pre-cutting them on the job site. A peak crew of six hangers installed the curved gypsum drywall in rather congested conditions. Masonry crews worked on one side of the corridor, while Bouma crews positioned their scissor lifts on the other. The school's library served as a staging area for the materials. Fortunately, the work got done on time and within budget. "I didn't realize we could make so many USG systems work together. But we got together with USG's technical people, and it was easy," said Moomey. "Between myself, USG and the architect, we made it happen. It's simply a spectacular application."

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