



WAUSAU

WINDOW AND WALL
SYSTEMS

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Project photo Payam Rahimian

LEED Platinum for 15 years: Wausau's windows continue adding value to one of the world's greenest buildings – UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science & Management

Wausau, Wisconsin (Nov. 2015) – Thanks in part to Wausau Window and Wall Systems, Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management's laboratory building at the University of California (UC) Santa Barbara, remains one of the greenest buildings and one of the highest performing, most sustainable buildings constructed in the last 15 years. Bren Hall achieved LEED® Platinum certification in 2002, making it the greenest laboratory building in the country and the first in the UC system to be LEED certified.



Celebrating this milestone, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) selected the project for its “versatility, value and staying power” and featured it as one of 15 LEED-certified projects in the world built in the last 15 years. According to USGBC, “the \$26 million, 84,672-square-foot building designed by Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects stands as a physical manifestation of UC Santa Barbara's efforts in scientific and academic innovation and leadership, and as a pioneer in low-impact facilities.”

The building has three floors of teaching and research laboratories and four floors of offices. Each floor of the building blends disciplinary boundaries to reflect the school's strong commitment to interdisciplinary study. In this same spirit, ample provision is made for space where faculty, students and visitors can interact and exchange ideas.

To maximize energy efficiency in such an energy-intensive laboratory setting, Wausau manufactured the building's large daylight-harvesting 2250 Series window system. Facing the ocean, the office wing has no air conditioning, but relies on flow-through ventilation with Wausau's operable windows and transoms. The windows in the office wing have a mechanical interlock (a small sensor in the frame) so that when the units are open, the office's heaters automatically turn off.

In addition to ample use of natural ventilation and daylight, energy-efficient lamps and ballasts, including motion and ambient light sensors help control lighting levels and a rooftop solar photovoltaic system generates approximately 10 percent of the building's power onsite. The building reportedly uses up to 40 percent less electricity than a conventional structure. It surpasses the Title 24 requirements for energy efficiency standards by more than 31 percent.

“It has become a living laboratory for new technologies,” development engineer, Sage Davis, shared with USGBC. “A key feature in the office wing is the ample natural lighting, natural ventilation, and beautiful views, which make the offices a very pleasant place to work.”

(more)

Recycled, renewable and durable materials also helped meet the project's sustainable design and construction objectives. Linetec finished Wausau systems' recycled aluminum framing using a two-coat 70 percent polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) resin-based coating. The gray color was custom-blended in Linetec's in-house laboratory. As an environmentally responsible finisher, Linetec captures the liquid paints' volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to eliminate the exhaust of potential pollutants. Tested to meet the stringent AAMA 2605 specifications, the resulting, durable coating ensures a long-lasting finish.

The paints, adhesives, and finishes used in the building meet the requirements of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's "Volatile Organic Content Rule 1168 for Adhesive and Sealant Applications." The use of low-VOC paints and finishes also contributed to Bren Hall earning both its credits and its reputation as the highest standard for sustainable buildings and a role model for all of UC's campus buildings.

"As the first project to receive LEED Platinum certification as both a new and existing building, Bren Hall demonstrates tremendous green building leadership," said Rick Fedrizzi, president, CEO and founding chair of the USGBC. "The urgency of USGBC's mission has challenged the industry to move faster and reach further than ever before, and Bren Hall serves as a prime example with just how much we can accomplish."

In addition to Bren Hall, recently highlighted by the USGBC, Wausau participated in other pioneering sustainable design projects. Early examples include the LEED Platinum-certified Armstrong World Industries' corporate headquarters and the LEED-Gold certified The Plaza at PPL Center, both in Pennsylvania. "Throughout the last 15 years, we're proud to have contributed to hundreds of LEED-certified projects, including our own LEED Silver-certified manufacturing facility," added Wausau's vice president of technical services, Steve Fronek, P.E., LEED Green Associate. "Our products and our team's innovative approaches have supported building owners' energy-efficiency goals for more than 40 years, and will continue to do so for the net-zero/net-positive energy buildings of tomorrow."

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Bren School of Environmental Science & Management; 2400 Bren Hall, University of California, Santa Barbara CA 93106-5131; <http://www.esm.ucsb.edu>

- Owner: University of California, Santa Barbara; <http://www.ucsb.edu>
- Architect and interior designer: Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP; Los Angeles; <https://www.zgf.com>
- Contractor: Soltek Pacific Construction Company; San Diego, California; <http://www.soltekpacific.com>
- Glazing contractor: Santa Barbara Glass Company; Carpentry, California; <http://www.santabarbaraglasscompany.com>
- Glazing systems – window manufacturer: Wausau Window and Wall Systems; Wausau, Wisconsin; <http://www.wausauwindow.com>
- Glazing systems – finishing: Linetec; Wausau, Wisconsin; <http://www.linetec.com>
- Project photo by: Payam Rahimian

Nationally recognized for its innovative expertise, Wausau Window and Wall Systems is an industry leader in engineering window and curtainwall systems for commercial and institutional construction applications. For more than 55 years, Wausau has worked closely with architects, building owners and contractors to realize their vision for aesthetic beauty, sustainability and lasting value, while striving to maintain the highest level of customer service, communication and overall satisfaction. Wausau is a part of Apogee Enterprises, Inc., a publicly held, U.S. corporation.

Wausau and its staff are members of the American Architectural Manufacturers Association (AAMA), the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the APPA – Leadership in Educational Facilities, the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), Glass Association of North America (GANA), the National Fenestration Ratings Council (NFRC) and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

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