

Historical
Library

Pharma
Headquarters

Law Office

University
Church




Architectural Woodwork Institute

design solutions

Summer
2014 | \$6.25



WOW.

A photograph of a modern office lobby. On the left, a large, cantilevered wall is covered in Eucalyptus panels, creating a dynamic architectural feature. The floor is polished and reflective. In the foreground, there are several modern armchairs and a small round table. The space is bright and open, with large windows on the right side.

**Figured Eucalyptus
Cantilevered Feature
Walls Make a Dynamic
Headquarters.**

Highlighting the space are the gorgeous cantilevered, Eucalyptus paneled walls in the lobby.

In setting up the new 420,000 square foot headquarters offices the design was entrusted to the Smith Group JJR, located in Chicago, while the architectural woodwork was fabricated and installed by Imperial Woodworking Company, an AWI member firm headquartered in Palatine, Illinois. The project's timeframe was from February of 2008 through May of 2012.

The design considerations were to create a world class headquarters, improve employee recruitment, performance and retention, gather the team members in a collaborative environment and reduce long-term real estate costs.

This was achieved, notes Kenneth Novak of the Smith Group by creating a space that is "forward moving, dynamic and well appointed. The introduction of botanic

elements, which are the cornerstone of the pharmaceutical industry, are appropriately presented. Stones, glass, wood veneers and color are all designed and coordinated to support these design elements. Together, they present Astellas to its employees, customers and potential new hires as an organization at the leading edge of health-care."

Welcoming Wood

"The design needed to be warm and welcoming and the use of wood helped us accomplish that goal," says Robert Quetsch of Astellas.

According to Jim Hutchinson of Imperial Woodworking, the items the firm fabricated for the project included two-story-high veneer feature walls, solid

The custom fabricated reception desk, at left, is made of Eucalyptus to match the paneling.



wood slat walls for the conference room, cantilevered credenzas, display walls, custom stair treads, along with high pressure decorative laminate casework and counters.

The selection of woods included quartered and figured FSC Eucalyptus, slip matched and fabricated into parallelogram-shaped panels; and plain sliced Walnut which was also slip matched.

The wood needed to be FSC certified and sustainable per the owners' request. In fact, the owner's representative was involved in flitch selections and veneer layouts prior to fabrication.

at a glance

AWI MANUFACTURING
MEMBER:

**Imperial Woodworking
Company**

LOCATION:

Palatine, Illinois

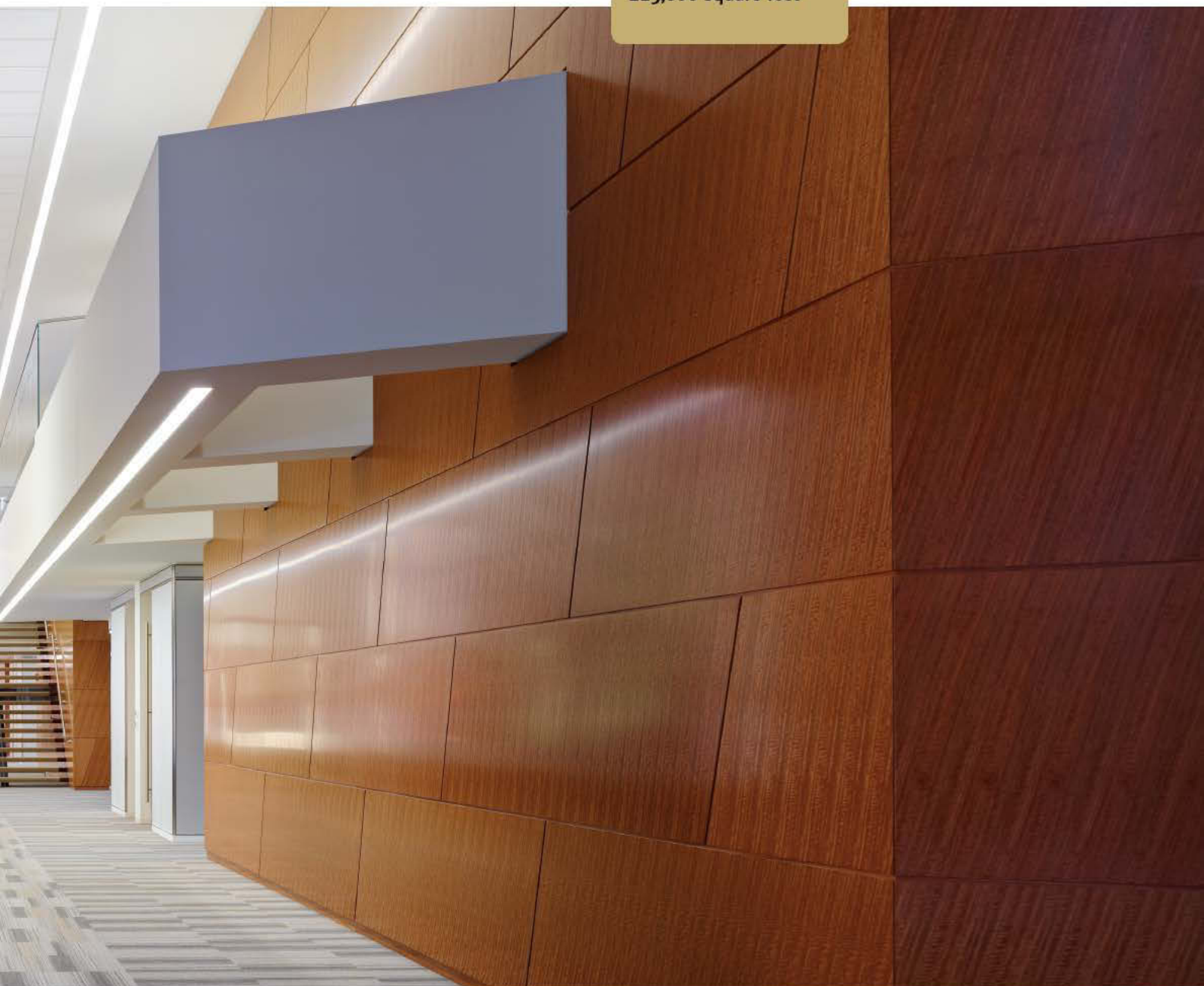
ESTABLISHED:

1963

FACILITY:

225,000 square feet

Walnut was used primarily for furniture and cabinetry, points out Novak, while Eucalyptus was used for architectural materials such as wall panels, reception desks, wood solar shades and doors. Stained Poplar was used in areas where a low cost yet strong material was needed and where Eucalyptus was cost prohibitive.





The combination of exquisite Eucalyptus paneling and Walnut furniture contribute to giving Astellas the world class headquarters the company desired.

“What sets us apart is our custom designed wood finishing operation that is one of the most sophisticated in the country, our fully equipped veneer department, and state-of-the-art equipment and technology for job costing, job tracking, scheduling and drafting.”

– **Frank Huschitt III**
President

Beautiful Features

“As you enter the lobby of the office space, the wood planters containing the bamboo, along with the wood ceilings create a warm and welcoming environment as soon as you arrive,” says Quetsch. “From the exterior, the sides of the buildings glow with the warmth of the wood panels. The conference center has a two-story space that incorporates woodwork on the walls and into the staircase.”

Novak notes that the large installation of Eucalyptus panels in the lobbies are “awe-inspiring. The quality of the installation over such a large area is impressive.”

Additionally he says, “The cantilevered installation of the wood solar shades at an outward leaning wall is impressive in both its design and in the complex nature of its difficult installation. Towering wood frames at the building’s heritage are beautifully produced and installed.”

The most intricate aspect of the project, adds Hutchinson, were the two 130-foot-long panel elevations that ran 22-feet high with a compound mitered corner design element following the building structure. “The panel installation was unique in itself because of the staggered and overlapped parallelogram shapes. The true complexity of the installation process was understanding, calculating and communicating accurately the field dimensions of the 22-foot, compound-mitered corner details.”




Working Together

Prior to installation, coordination meetings were used to communicate time requirements, project sequencing and the overall project schedule, Hutchinson continues. "Our role in design assistance came during the selection process of the quartered, figured FSC Eucalyptus. Prior to our selection meeting

with the architect, owner and contractor, we assembled a 30-foot wide by 12-foot tall veneer face mock-up to review what the actual appearance of the panel wall assembly would look like."

Working on this project was an easy and open process where communication was at the forefront, he summarizes.

"The woodworking company worked very hard on how exactly to match the patterns across the wall, including the full scale mock-up," says Quetsch. "They were very concerned with the quality of the finished products and they made all the deliverable dates."

"Imperial Woodworking was a willing and resourceful partner throughout the design and construction process." Notes Novak. "The work was without flaw, on time and impressive to both the educated and casual eye." 

PROJECT:
Astellas US
Headquarters
Northbrook, IL

PROJECT OWNER:
Astellas
Pharma US, Inc.
Northbrook, IL

WOODWORKER:
Imperial
Woodworking
Company
Palatine, IL

ARCHITECT:
Smith Group JJR
CHICAGO, IL

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Power Construction
Schaumburg, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER:
Christopher Barrett
Photography
Berwyn, IL

The woodworking firm also fabricated and installed custom stair treads for the project.

