

## CASE STUDY

ACOUSTICAL CEILING FROM BPB

**Celotex**<sup>®</sup> BRAND

CLASSIC MINERAL CEILING SYSTEMS

*Cashmere*<sup>®</sup> Designer Series



The \$20 million Jernigan Institute is a five-story structure adjacent to a four-story renovated factory building that contains the NFB National Headquarters in South Baltimore. The new facility was designed to provide training and other support services.

### NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

Project:	Jernigan Institute
Location:	Baltimore, MD
Architect:	John A. Ammon + Associates, Baltimore, MD
Contractor:	Wilhelm Commercial Builders, Annapolis Junction, MD
Distributor:	Supplies Unlimited, Inc., Baltimore, MD

#### Celotex<sup>®</sup> Brand Ceiling Panels Provide Superior Light Reflectance and Noise Reduction

When a high-profile national organization adds new conference and training facilities, a great deal of attention is focused on the acoustical properties of the ceiling system. That's why the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) selected ceiling panels from the Celotex<sup>®</sup> Brand, manufactured by BPB, one of the world's largest manufacturers of wall and ceiling products, for their new Jernigan Institute addition.

The Jernigan Institute is a five-story structure adjacent to a four-story renovated factory building that contains the NFB National Headquarters in South Baltimore. The ground floors of the institute contain a one-and-a-half-story parking garage. The \$20 million facility also includes a research library, technology training labs, classrooms, a 140-fixed-seat auditorium, office and flexible meeting space with capacity for 1,000, and an access technology incubator designed to support the development and commercialization of technology helpful to the blind.

The 180,000 sq. ft. Jernigan Institute supports the Blind Federation's 50,000-member organization with training, seminars, and development efforts. These programs, research and technology will improve the lifestyle of more than half of the 1.1 million blind people in the United States.

John Cheadle, executive director of program facilities, said the highest priority in the selection of ceiling panels was their sound deadening qualities in addition to durability and light reflectance. The Celotex<sup>®</sup> Brand Cashmere<sup>®</sup> acoustical ceiling panels selected have a high .60 Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) and high light reflectance of .82.

Dave Fitzgerald with Supplies Unlimited Inc. of Baltimore explained that the Celotex<sup>®</sup> Brand "offered the exact performance attributes Cheadle was looking for."

But even the insulation load and humidity resistance was not enough to help Cheadle rest

*continued*



Spectacular vaulted ceilings are featured in several areas of the NFB Jernigan Institute building. Celotex<sup>®</sup> Brand Cashmere<sup>®</sup> acoustical ceiling panels from BPB provide the desired .60 Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC).



Training materials and other visual displays in the new NFB Jernigan Center are seen in the best possible light—a combination of high performance fluorescent lighting and Celotex<sup>®</sup> Brand Cashmere<sup>®</sup> acoustical panels from BPB.



The elegantly paneled hallways of the Jernigan Institute are brightened by the high light reflectance of the Celotex<sup>®</sup> Brand ceiling panels from BPB.



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# CASE STUDY

## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND *continued*

easy. "The real problem is incidental abuse," said Cheadle, noting that electricians and air conditioning technicians have to go into the plenum by removing the panels. "That's a ceiling panel's worst enemy," he said.

The tough and cost-effective Cashmere<sup>®</sup> panels got inside the Jernigan Institute by word of mouth. The ceiling panels' excellent features spread from another large-scale building project in the Baltimore area to the building team on the Jernigan Institute project. Cheadle learned about the BPB products from his contractor.

"We were in the middle of value analysis discussions when the contractor suggested it," Cheadle said.

"They did it first-class," said project manager Rob Kahmer with Wilhelm Commercial Builders of Annapolis Junction, Maryland. Wilhelm was the general contractor, which specializes in interior tenant office construction. Kahmer recalled spending 13 months on tenant improvements to get the job done right.

The sound deadening qualities of the building were further enhanced with extra sealant, which was used around door and window frames, and with walls that were made thicker than required by code, according to Kahmer.

The building architectural firm was John A. Ammon + Associates, Inc. At the request of the Blind Federation, few features that sighted people believe are helpful for the blind were part of the finished interior space. Cheadle noted: "Mostly the blind don't want the architecture reworked for the blind, because the blind need to be able to function in every environment."

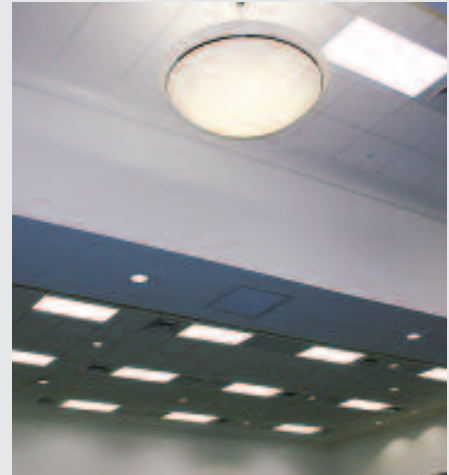
Many people considered legally blind do have some vision, and brighter workspaces can be useful to those office workers as well as fully sighted people. Some accent lighting was used, but the majority of the lighting throughout the building comes from indirect T8 fluorescent bulbs installed in fixtures and enhanced by the Cashmere<sup>®</sup> ceiling panels.

"We wanted to bounce light around," Cheadle said. "We have really bright spaces.

The brightness for us is part of the whole notion of having a comfortable work space."

In addition to improving the office environment for the blind, the lighting, glass and ceiling panels can qualify new construction and major renovations for credits toward LEED certification.

BPB's Celotex<sup>®</sup> Brand Cashmere<sup>®</sup> acoustical ceiling products have data sheets available to the building team that provide the applicable information needed for use in achieving LEED credits. The Cashmere<sup>®</sup> panels can optimize energy performance because of their high light reflectance; the panels are recyclable and have a high recycled content. The panels qualify for credits in other categories, including: Rapidly Renewable Materials; Low-Emitting Materials, Paints and Coatings; and Daylight and Views.



Conference facilities in the Jernigan Institute utilize BPB Celotex<sup>®</sup> Brand Cashmere<sup>®</sup> acoustical ceiling panels to deliver the high light reflectance and sound reduction characteristics required by the NFB.

### Product Specifications

	Item Number	Nominal Size (Inches)	Edge Detail	NRC	CAC	LR	Features
Cashmere <sup>®</sup> Designer Series	CDS-224	24 x 48 x 3/4	Reveal	.60	35	.82	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finely textured pattern</li> <li>• Clean linear scoring</li> <li>• Scored options for added visual impact</li> </ul>
Cashmere <sup>®</sup>	CM-454	24 x 24 x 3/4	Reveal	.60	35	.82	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lightly textured</li> <li>• 10-Year Limited Warranty against sag (104°F/90%RH).</li> <li>• Full selection of sizes and highly decorative edge details</li> </ul>
Cashmere <sup>®</sup>	CM-497	24 x 48 x 3/4	Trim	.60	35	.82	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CM-450 and CM-454 are available in standard color tones</li> </ul>

For more information and samples, contact:

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