



Contact's innovation gains UC Berkeley's Stanley Hall a higher fire rating
Wrapped soffits allow for the look of wood with properties of aluminum

[Contact Industries](#), a worldwide leader in profile wrapping technology recently supplied veneer wrapped soffits for [University of California Berkeley's](#) new bio science building, [Stanley Hall](#). The architect and designer wanted the aesthetic look of cedar but could not use solid wood and still meet the necessary fire codes. Contact's solution was a Western Red Cedar wrapped custom aluminum metal soffit, which provided the look of wood, but the higher fire rating of aluminum.

Stanley Hall is eight stories above ground with three basement levels. The building measures approximately 285,000 gross square feet, which is nearly three times the size of the former Stanley Hall. The first floor teaching and meeting facilities include a 300-seat auditorium, a smaller auditorium for 120, and a multi-media classroom with flexible space for 45-50 that will have state-of-the-art equipment to support teaching and lectures. The laboratory and lab support space is designed with a flexible layout that can easily respond to multidisciplinary research protocols and evolving needs of modern research.

"Stanley Hall's soffits are a perfect example of where our company is headed," said Peter McKibbin, Vice President, Contact Industries. "This was a custom product we had never created before, but when presented with the opportunity, accepted the challenge, and ended up with a new product and an innovative solution and ultimately, a win/win for all involved."

The exterior materials of the new building will also include Sierra granite and copper, materials used on other classical buildings on the UC Berkeley campus such as the Hearst Memorial Mining Building and Doe Library. The development team for the building include [Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership](#), [McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.](#), and [UC Berkeley Capital Projects](#).

As with all Contact products, the soffits are a prime example of extending wood resources and engineering environmentally efficient products. By using veneer wrapping processes, Contact extends resources by up to 50 times, compared to solid wood millwork. A single block of 5/4 solid hardwood might make a single millwork profile, but Contact Industries can get as many as 50 identical products from that same block.

