

## Illusion of minimalism and simplicity

**Featured is Rockfon's Custom-Made Vaulted Ceiling for Winthrop University's Carroll Hall. Project was Recognized with a Prestigious CISCA 2009 Construction Excellence Award.**

There is a 30-foot by 30-foot space on Winthrop University's campus in Rock Hill, South Carolina, that you will probably not find anywhere else. Looking up into the tower of the newly constructed Carroll Hall a vaulted ceiling like no other greets your eyes. Based on an architectural rendering, this custom project's minimalism and simplicity belie the challenges it faced in its creation.

This suspended, segmented, vaulted, metal ceiling began with a simple architectural rendering, which proved a challenge to execute from the onset. The architects had no concept of how it would be constructed and were unable to find a ceiling manufacturing company to quote the project with a warranty. In the end it came down to

a collaborative effort between the installing contractor and Rockfon.

Although it was visualized to be constructed out of metal, this type of ceiling had never been made out of metal before. The medium proved to be the most efficient to work with and delivered acoustical benefits within the 20-foot high space. The installers made sure spacing

between each free floating panel was precise and the panels' arc radius matched precisely with the windows' arc radius.

The only way to achieve a smooth effect and create the curved vaulted shape was to face mount segmented panels to a ribbed, t-bar suspension system all custom made by Rockfon. The seamlessness of the ceiling creates the illusion, depending on your perspective, that is is flat or curved.



According to the installer, the particular challenge for this project was making sure everything lined up. It looks simple and seamless, but the design involved precision installation. Each individual ceiling cloud is free floating and the spacing between each sculpture piece had to be exact.





The CISCA 2009 Construction Excellence Silver Award-winner for Ceilings, South Region, this unique suspended metal ceiling at Winthrop University, S.C., required precision installation to create its minimalistic and seamless look. Installation challenges came in ensuring spacing between each floating panel was precise and the vaulted panels aligned with the windows. The custom made system included segmented panels face mounted to a ribbed t-bar suspension system.

PROJECT	Carroll Hall, Winthrop University – Rock Hill, SC
ARCHITECT	FWA Group
CONTRACTORS	General Contractor: Leitner Construction Installing Contractor: Acousti Engineering
ROCKFON PRODUCTS	Custom Metal Ceiling

Photo Credit: Robert Pepple, Pepple Photography, Jacksonville, FL