



*Leader Dogs for the Blind trains sight-limited students from around the world free of charge. The new campus in Polk County, Michigan, functions from donations from Lions Clubs and private contributions.*



*BPB Celotex ceiling products contain a high percentage of recycled materials and the panels can be recycled after use through a special program established by BPB.*

## LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

**Project:** Polk Residence and Training Facility  
**Location:** Rochester, MI  
**Application:** Acoustical ceilings  
**Architects:** Heins & Kwapis Architects, Rochester Hills, MI  
**Distributor:** Huron Acoustical Tile, Clinton Township, MI

### Leader Dog School Selects Celotex<sup>®</sup> Brand Ceilings for Superior Acoustics

In any educational setting, the accurate transmission of sound from teacher to students is important. But in a setting where visually impaired students are learning to interact with guide dogs, it's absolutely vital.

For more than 65 years, Leader Dogs for the Blind has helped some 12,500 people achieve the freedom of safe and independent travel through the use of guide dogs. The organization recently opened its \$9 million Polk Residence and Training Facility, where new students and their newly assigned dogs go through a 25-day orientation and training course.

The acoustical ceiling system is an integral component of the teaching process. After careful evaluation, architects Heins & Kwapis selected ceiling products from BPB. The Celotex<sup>®</sup> Brand Baroque<sup>™</sup> ceiling was chosen for use in the training areas, residences and common areas, while the Capaul<sup>®</sup> Brand Vinylrock X<sup>™</sup> ceiling was used in the food preparation and service areas.

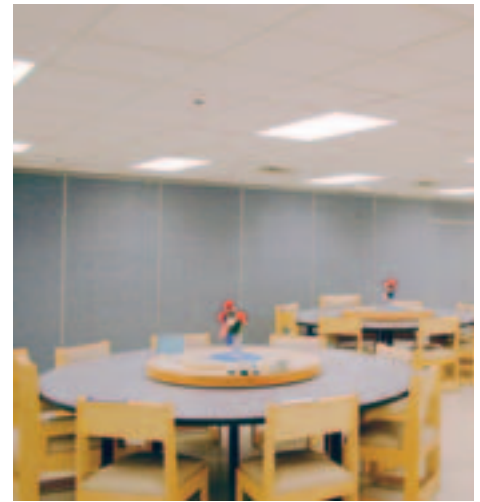
Architect Gary Kwapis, president of Heins & Kwapis Architects, in Rochester, Michigan, considers the Baroque<sup>™</sup> and Vinylrock X<sup>™</sup> products to be the most cost effective ceiling system of all the ceilings he evaluated for this project.

"We tried to go for a clean but functional look," said Kwapis on the design of the new building and ultimate selection of the BPB America ceiling systems.

"Acoustics were not a priority in the older campus buildings," he added. But sound technology has changed over the years," said Kwapis. "Acoustical ceiling tiles comprise nearly every ceiling on this new two-story building."

In the residential center, the hallways are walls with ribbons of dark blue tiles to create a path

*continued*



*BPB's Capaul Brand VinylRock X ceiling tile was used in this new dining room at the Polk Center. Braille markers on the seat backs and lazy Susan serving trays assist sight impaired students during meal times.*

For more information and samples, contact:

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## LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND *continued*



The building's main reception area contains a combination of Celotex tile products along with the BPB Classic Hook grid system. Benefits include a lower noise reduction coefficient and higher light reflectancy.

for the sight-limited students. Hospital-type guide rails along the walls of the hallways contain Braille labels so that blind students can find their way around the new building. A painted line just below the ceiling also assists the students in locating the doorways. And according to Kwapis, the light reflectance of the Celotex® Brand ceiling panels also helps benefit the visually impaired.

Huron Acoustic Tile of Clinton Township, Michigan, installed the Celotex® Brand Baroque™ Textured, Baroque™ Customline® Designer Series and Vinylrock X™ tiles on a Celotex® Brand ceiling grid.

The Classic Hook System from BPB was selected for the project. The product is known for a double web design that is durable and strong for a panel with intermediate and heavy-duty load bearing capabilities. The cross tees have the feature of hook-over end tabs for positive locking and easy disassembly.

The ceiling was hung from bar joists on the first floor and on the second floor some drywall was used or the ceiling was hung from metal trusses. The banquet/ballroom area received 2x2 regular reveal tiles to add a texture to the room.

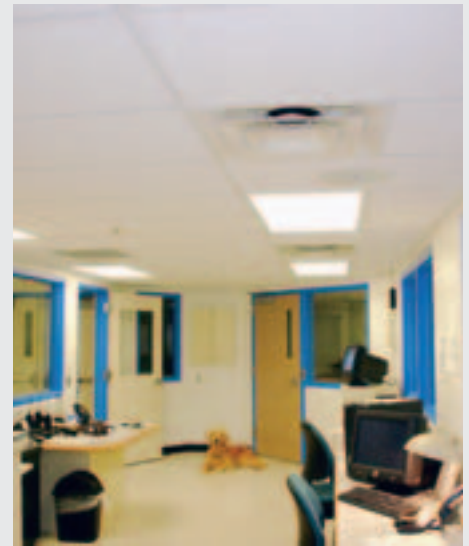
"We found that the BPB ceiling products are a real pleasure to work with," said Mike Olejarczyk with Huron. "Our installer found the grid system easy to hang and the tiles cut easily to fit in the odd shaped grid sections."

Before the selection of a grid and panels, the building team had the information on performance characteristics presented to them by their BPB representative, Linda Vendt. She explained concepts such as noise reduction



The new Polk Center includes accommodations for 24 people. Celotex Brand Baroque panels were used because they produce less reverberation and a higher degree of sound attenuation.

coefficient, based on ASTM test methods in the areas of reverberation. Other features include sound attenuation, light reflectancy, waste management and more.



Golden retriever "Dante", a permanent resident of the Leader Dog school, helps show off the state-of-the art administrative office at the Polk Center, complete with a Celotex Brand Baroque Textured acoustical ceiling panels.

In addition to superior acoustical performance, BPB's Celotex® Brand ceiling products include a high percentage of recycled material and the panels can also be recycled after use a program instituted as part of BPB's high degree of attention to sustainability issues. Celotex® Brand ceiling systems also qualify for use in LEED projects registered with the U.S. Green Building Council, of which BPB is a member.

#### Features:

- Distinct texture appropriate to enhance high ceiling areas.
- 100% non-directional embossed fissure pattern.

### Product Specifications

	Item Number	Nominal Size (Inches)	Edge Detail	UL Classified		Light Reflectancy
				NRC Range	CAC Range	
Celotex® Brand, Wet-Felted Ceiling Baroque™ Textured	TBQ-197	24 x 48 x 5/8	Trim	.60	33	.77
Capaul® Brand Gypsum Ceilings VinylRock X™ White CRF	1140-CRF-1	1/2 x 24 x 48	Trim	N/A	45	.88

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