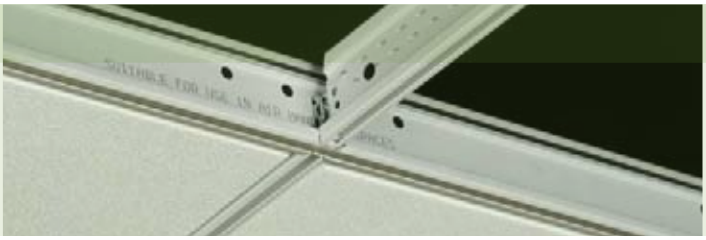
case study

Project. . . **Sustainability Resource Center**
Location . . **University of California, San Diego**
Product. . . **DC FlexZone™ suspension system**



the challenge:

The UC San Diego Sustainability Resource Center (SRC) is a collaborative facility open to faculty, students, staff, and campus partners to advance common goals in campus environmental stewardship.

Located in a renovated space, the Center includes a library, meeting room, public outreach space, and offices. Because of its mission as a living laboratory, it was important for the interior renovation to focus on sustainability, efficiency, and innovation.

the solution:

As part of the renovation, the SRC partnered with members of the EMerge Alliance® and installed a DC-to-DC lighting system that integrates solar panels on the power generation side with efficient fluorescent lighting and controls on the device side.

The solar system consists of an array of four dedicated rooftop photovoltaic panels that convert sunlight into direct current (DC), which is then distributed to DC-driven lighting fixtures and components in the Center.

By facilitating a direct connection between the DC power source and DC devices, the system eliminates the need for multiple conversions that would be required in a traditional solar to AC power distribution system.

DC FlexZone, the innovative new ceiling suspension system from Armstrong, is used to distribute power to the devices via the ceiling plane. Two different styles of FlexZone suspension system are installed in the Center – a Silhouette® 1/4" Reveal Slot System in the library and a Suprafine® Exposed Tee System in the offices.

The FlexZone suspension system not only distributes the low voltage DC current, but also allows use of "plug and play" lighting fixtures that can be moved as needed without the need to rewire. This feature provides the Center with maximum flexibility as the organization's needs change.

The SRC recently received LEED® – Commercial Interiors (CI) Gold certification for its unique design. Included in the certification is an Innovation and Design Credit for the Center's "High Efficiency DC Microgrid."

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