

case study

Project **Susquehanna Waldorf School**
Location.... **Marietta, PA**
Product..... **Ultima® Create!™ Ceiling Panels**

the challenge:

Linda Heywood, a pre-kindergarten teacher at the Susquehanna Waldorf School, is always looking to introduce art into classrooms. "Young children just love color," she says, "especially if it adds life to the room."

the solution:

To meet that objective, Linda recently partnered with Armstrong and, based on her artwork, created and installed a trio of Ultima Create! acoustical ceiling clouds that absorb sound and feature one-of-a-kind original art, a watercolor painted by Heywood.

New Ultima Create! ceilings allow designers to capture unique images or custom colors onto ceiling panels. The custom art can be part of a wall-to-wall ceiling or clouds.

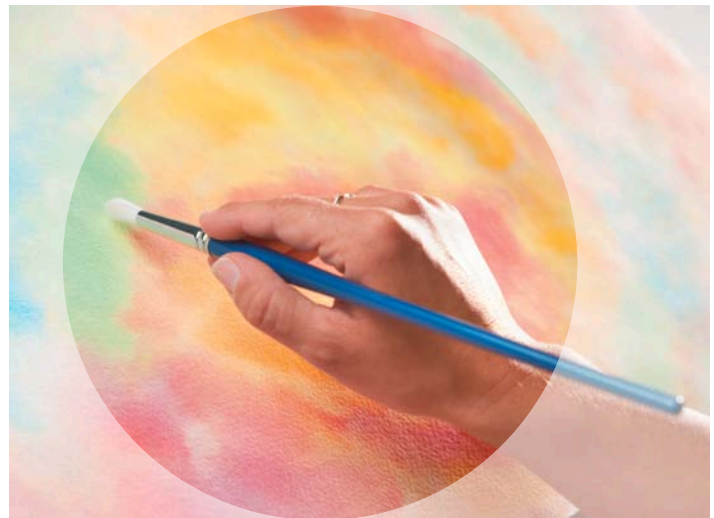
Describing her ceiling art, Heywood explains that "Three-to-five-year-olds are full of imagination, so I didn't want it to look like anything in particular, such as stars or the moon. Instead, I wanted it to be something that would open up all the possibilities of their young minds."

Using Heywood's original artwork, three ceiling clouds were created – a 6' x 8' cloud suspended over the room's cooking/crafting area and two 6' x 6' clouds placed over play areas.

"The installation of the clouds has added a whole new dimension to the room," Heywood says. "Everyone is absolutely delighted with the result. And, to see my artwork transformed from a small sheet of paper to a large ceiling cloud is simply overwhelming."

The clouds also enhanced the acoustic environment of the room. That's because the Ultima ceiling panels have a Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) of 0.70, meaning they absorb 70% of the sound that strikes them. "We can hear the difference," she says. "It is definitely much quieter."

Acoustic measurements taken before and after installation of the clouds confirm the improvement. Even though the clouds only cover 17% of the room's area, reverberation time decreased 15% and the activity noise level decreased 5 decibels, allowing the teacher to speak in a quieter voice and still be heard.



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