

# case study

Project . . . **Hamilton College**  
Location . . . **Clinton, New York**  
Architect . . . **EwingCole, Cleveland, Ohio**  
Product . . . **Tierra™ ceilings**

## the challenge:

Hamilton College, a small liberal arts school, is big when it comes to sustainability. As part of its commitment to environmental stewardship, the college lists nine goals, ranging from a reduction of its carbon emission 50% by the year 2020 to the use of LEED® guidelines in the design of all new construction and major renovations.

Based on these goals, the college was seeking environmentally friendly building materials for a new addition to the Kirner-Johnson Building, home of the school's social studies department.

## the solution:

The college became the first facility in the nation to install the new Armstrong Tierra™ ceiling, the industry's most rapidly renewable acoustical ceiling. Installed in one of the classrooms in the addition, the new ceiling features an exclusive BioAcoustic™ substrate made from jute, a natural fiber that grows from seed to harvest in ninety days.

Amy Fedor of EwingCole notes that in addition to its inherent environmental benefits to the school, the ceiling also contributes to LEED certification as a result of its unique substrate.

The ceiling has a high rapidly renewable content of 45%, and is recyclable at the end of its useful service life through the Armstrong Ceiling Recycling Program. Tierra also has a high post-consumer recycled content of 23%.

To provide better sound absorption, the panel Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) is 0.85. Tierra's high Light Reflectance (LR) value of 0.88 is used with indirect lighting to reduce the energy required for lighting.

Available in 2' x 2' and 2' x 4' lay-in panels, the ceiling installs in acoustical ceiling suspension systems just like mineral fiber or fiberglass panels. Installation of the panels in an Armstrong high recycled content grid system maximizes the ceiling's environmental benefits.



BioAcoustic™ substrate right.  
Tierra with DuraBrite® finish, left.