



Student Center Study Rooms

University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri



Residential Life Offices



Residential Life Conference Room

The University of Missouri was founded in 1839 in Columbia, Mo., as the first public university west of the Mississippi River and the first state university in Thomas Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase territory. Known as Mizzou, the university is considered one of the United States' top-tier institutions, with a reputation of excellence in teaching and research.

This venerable institution also has its share of DIRTT. So far, the custom, prefab walls are used in six buildings, from conference rooms and offices in the Arts & Science Department to group meeting rooms in the new Student Center. Mizzou's Residential Life facilities team chose DIRTT as their interior construction choice for a myriad of reasons. "We wanted to use a product that was earth friendly and fiscally considerate," explained Kenna Weber, senior interior designer for Residential Life. "We are aware of our responsibility to be good stewards of our environment and the funding that supports the school. It's important to our students, our campus and our community."

The flexibility of DIRTT was the answer



Residential Life Interior Design Library

Tracy Schultz is the interior design coordinator for Student Services. That team involved the students themselves in their exploration of the best space to suit the school and its goals. "For the Student Center group study rooms we surveyed a dozen or so students," said Tracy. "We showed them what the different options were and let them test them out. They thought the flexibility of the DIRTT product was the answer. Of course, they were pleased with the sustainability aspect. Kids these days are all about that."

Aesthetics were also important to the students. They wanted a comfy and traditional student center that fit with the historic feel of the school. "They didn't want the cold feeling of metal," said Tracy. "We went with all wood. The DIRTT wood corners were a nice touch too."

What you can't see is just as important. The term 'Universal Design' is a directive for the school; it basically means the spaces and the elements in them shouldn't call out anyone's physical abilities. Universal Design is one of the reasons the team at Mizzou likes DIRTT's sliding barn doors so much. "They are so easy to use and work great for people of all abilities," said Tracy. "They are ADA compliant without calling it out, plus they saved us all kinds of space."

The popularity of the new student group study rooms is almost overwhelming. Even while plans are in the works for adding another room, the facilities team has had to install a computer kiosk for students to book the rooms for a two-hour maximum. "The notes on the doors explaining proper etiquette weren't doing the trick. We had several repeat offenders who would just camp in there," said Tracy. "The good news is, they love 'em."