



# THE SKY is Not the Limit for Peninsula Wall & Ceiling

by Deb Draper / Photos courtesy of Peninsula Wall & Ceiling

The B.C. Wall and Ceiling Association (BCWCA) has awarded the Best Acoustics & Ceilings Project of 2019 to Peninsula Wall & Ceiling for its innovative work on part of the Pier D terminal building expansion at YVR, the Vancouver International Airport.

YVR is Canada's second-busiest airport, projected to serve 31 million passengers every year by 2022. Moving forward to meet this growing passenger demand, the airport authority completed the first phase of its \$9.1 billion expansion and renovation plan in September 2018—the East Apron Remote Stand Operations (RSOs).

RSOs are a common approach to boarding and disembarking in Asian and European airports, used to accommodate wide-bodied aircraft such as Airbus A380 with its wingspan of 260 feet/79.24 metres. Instead of parking close in and using contact jet bridges, the huge aircraft park outside on the apron while electric buses transport passengers to and from the terminal, greatly increasing gate capacity. As part of this expansion of Pier D, an RSO passenger waiting area was constructed, covering more than 13,000 square feet to accommodate up to 600 passengers.

Peninsula Wall & Ceiling took on the challenge delivering a spectacular ceiling for the two new RSO Gates 56 & 57, a ceiling designed to reflect the surrounding beauty of British Columbia. “When we first saw the drawings for this project, our first reaction was...‘Wow! What is this?’” recalls Jim Paulsen, president and founder of Peninsula Wall & Ceiling. “After further review of the building sections, elevations, and reflected ceiling plans, we knew this was going to be a very cool and unique project.”

The plans called for a multitude of various shapes and sizes of fabric-wrapped acoustic panels integrated with steel stud and drywall ceilings and bulkhead to create a stunning ceiling that would showcase the new RSO gates at YVR.

Supplied by CrossTown Design Products Ltd., Decoustics’ floating Clean-Air Claro acoustical clouds and swoosh-cloud elements create a dramatic ceiling effect. Above the centre of the waiting area, the clouds vary in diameter from 31 inches to 59 inches and have seamless two-inch-high design returns that visually add depth to the ceiling.

Paulsen explains, “The architect’s vision called for the clouds





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Another challenging aspect of the project was in the three swoosh-cloud elements just outside the perimeter, comprised of uniquely shaped and sized segments designed to deliver the illusion of rotation and movement. The solution was custom-engineered T-bar track that was factory-attached to the different segments of the swooshes to ensure meticulous alignment throughout, concealed by two-inch design returns to meet the overall design intent.

Paulsen notes that all the components were delivered on site as finished products, ready for installation. “We built everything in place, assembling all the sub-ceilings, suspending the acoustic clouds as they arrived,” he says.

Beyond the aesthetic appeal, Paulsen praises the products used in this spectacular ceiling design for their contribution to the comfort and safety of YVR passengers. “In addition to meeting the design objectives of the project, Clean-Air Claro

clouds reach Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) of up to 0.9 and absorb lingering noises and echoes in this open area, thus creating a more pleasant stress-free atmosphere,” he notes, in the project’s BCWCA Project of the Year submission form.

“They are manufactured using health-friendly components and emit virtually no Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) achieving Greenguard Gold status as well as Class A Fire-Rating for the composite test, a safe and reliable choice for this public high-traffic place.”

Over its 15 years in business, Peninsula Wall & Ceiling has been involved in many unique projects, building a reputation for excellence through working with a highly skilled team and suppliers and manufacturers who can help turn architects’ design visions into reality.

With its striking 3D ceiling featuring floating clouds and dynamic swoosh elements, this award-winning project at the Vancouver International Airport is no exception. ■

From her desk in Calgary AB, Deb Smith writes for trade and business publications across North America, specializing in profiles and stories within the hospitality, food service, and construction industries.