

# University Library Renovation and Addition

Lightframe

**Project.** When renovating and building onto an existing library at St. Edwards University, the architect designed a cohesive, elegant interior with help from SEFAR LIGHTFRAME®.

Lightframe, an illuminated modular fabric ceiling system, provides evenly distributed, beautifully muted light above the multi-story Munday Library and Learning Commons. The result is a modern classroom setting and technology hub for the university, underneath 162 sqm SEFAR LIGHTFRAME®.

**Concept/Design.** Built to optimize daylight, both the eastern and western facing ends of the structure provide views to their respective landscapes. During the day, natural light elegantly moves across the space, accented with low levels of artificial light from the Lightframe modules. At night, artificial light from below the Lightframe modules is reflected off of the fabric. This indirect lighting provides a warm and rich, but still productive environment.

According to the architect, Lightframe was the only product that could create the ideal relaxed and refined learning environment. It is an elegant system and evenly distributes and beautifully diffuses light, all with extremely thin extrusions and strong, durable fabric.

**Construction.** Lightframe's unique secondary membrane allows it to diffuse light while improving acoustics. The dual membrane system prevents the penetration of debris and bugs that hinder the visual impact of other translucent ceiling products. The dual skin system is airtight and eliminates penetration of dust and insects on the fabric membrane, which can inhibit the transference of light over time. Lightframe also provides improved acoustics and long-lasting resistance to UV light. The low-maintenance material resists moisture and dirt, meets all fire code requirements, and is free of VOCs. In the event of a fire, the fabric used with SEFAR LIGHTFRAME® produces very little smoke and instead of dripping, it dissipates.

**Project/Location:** Library at St. Edwards University, Austin, TX, USA, <http://library.stedwards.edu/>

**Architect:** Sasaki Associates, Watertown, MA, USA, [www.sasaki.com](http://www.sasaki.com)

**Assembly/Implementation:** Millard Drywall, Austin, TX, USA, [www.millarddrywall.com](http://www.millarddrywall.com)

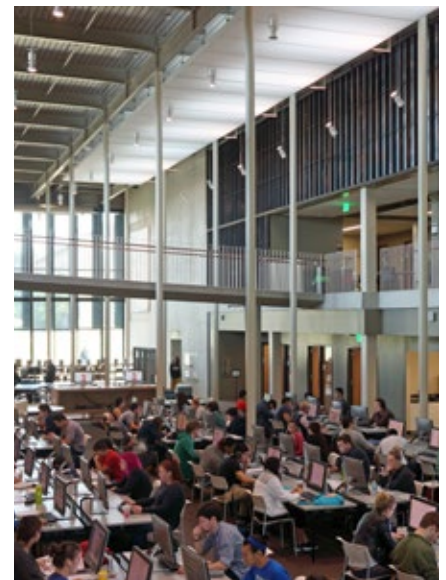
**General contractor:** VRW Construction, Austin, TX, USA, [www.vrwconstruction.com](http://www.vrwconstruction.com)

**Fabric:** SEFAR® Architecture IA-85-OP

**Backside:** ETFE foil white

**Lightframe Module:** 9 pcs. 3.15 m x 1.5 m

**Photos:** Tom Simister, Sasaki Associates, Watertown, MA, USA



Architecture  
**Systems**

**S E F A R**  
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