



**PROJECT: McDonald's Global Headquarters**  
**Location: Chicago, IL**

When McDonald's decided to move its global headquarters from the Chicago suburbs to downtown, the design team knew there would be challenges for the nine-story, 500,000 square foot building. One goal was to create a place that cultivates talent in a setting that values collaboration, productivity and worker well-being, in design and practice. The facility houses Hamburger University, where managers come to train; McCafe beverage bars, indoor-outdoor terraces with city views; a McDonald's restaurant featuring international menu options; and of course, many open work and conference areas. Within the design, visitors experience McDonald's heritage and the company's brand in unique engaging ways.

Designing areas with multiple uses can cause challenges balancing acoustics and aesthetics. The architect turned to USG Ensemble® Acoustical Drywall Ceiling, a system that delivers a high level of noise control in high-traffic areas without compromising the monolithic look of the ceiling. It comprises several elements — all designed to work together to maximize NRC and CAC performance. This was perfect for the main lobby, employee cafe and common spaces within the building.

USG Ensemble™ provides a new standard for high-performing acoustics and allows design flexibility unlocking new possibilities of what a ceiling can do.

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The USG Ensemble™ system worked really well for McDonald's. The execution went smoothly, and the client likes how the system looks and how it's performing,  
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— Ruben Gonzalez,  
Senior Associate  
IA Interior Architects

