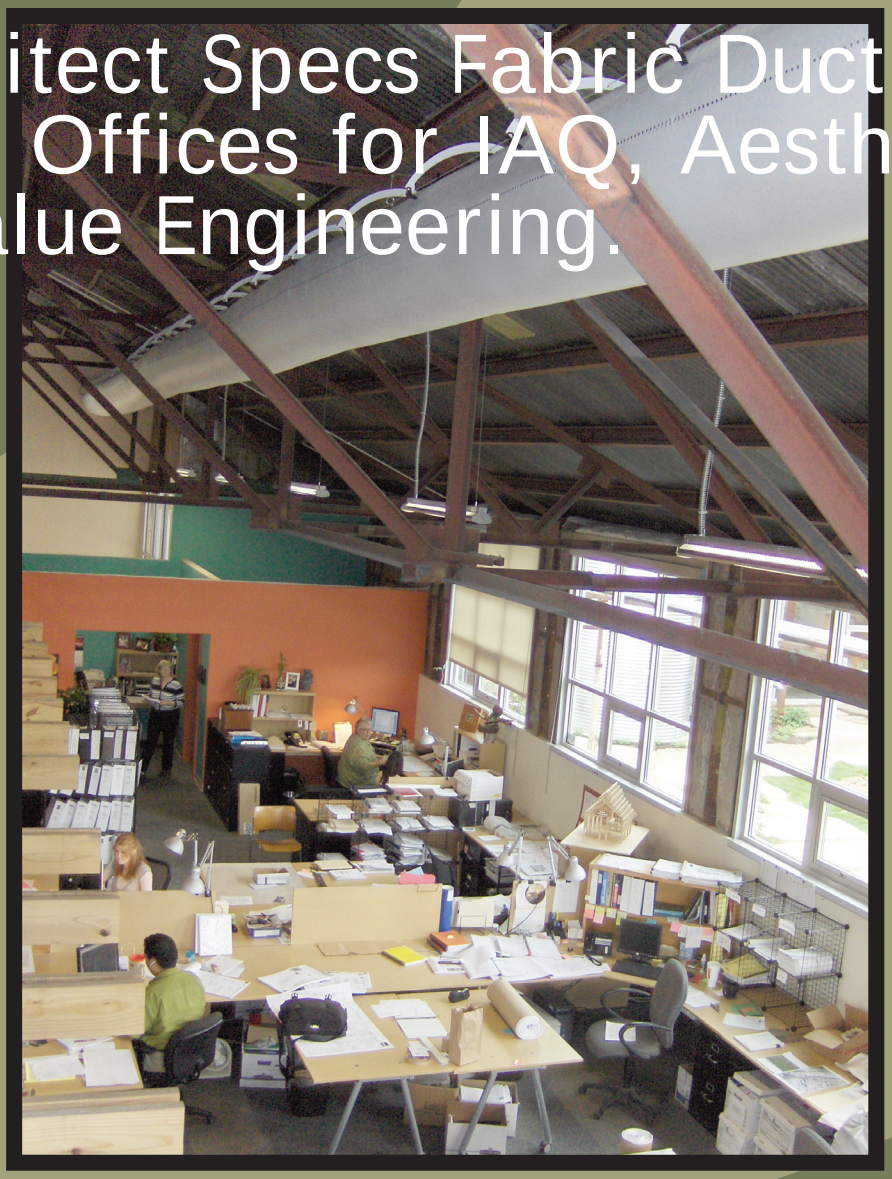
DUCTSOX®
Fabric Air Dispersion Products

Architect Specs Fabric Duct in Own Offices for IAQ, Aesthetics, & Value Engineering.



OCO Architects' "green" mission accomplished with efficient HVAC, & high R-Value materials in office conversion of 1940's warehouse.

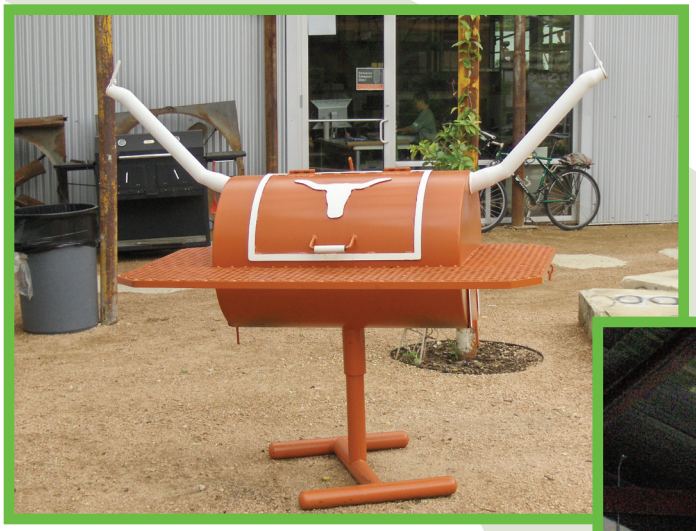
San Antonio, Texas—Architects admittedly are a hard sell on new materials and innovations such as fabric ductwork.

However, principals at O'Neill Conrad Oppelt (OCO) Architects Inc. never hesitated when specifying the fabric ductwork that is a very visible and important element of the open ceiling architecture at their new San Antonio, Texas headquarters. "If architects specify a product like fabric duct for their very own offices, it's a pretty good indication that fabric duct has become a viable part of the HVAC industry," said Scott Freund, vice president, Comfort-Air Engineering, San Antonio, which installed the HVAC systems.

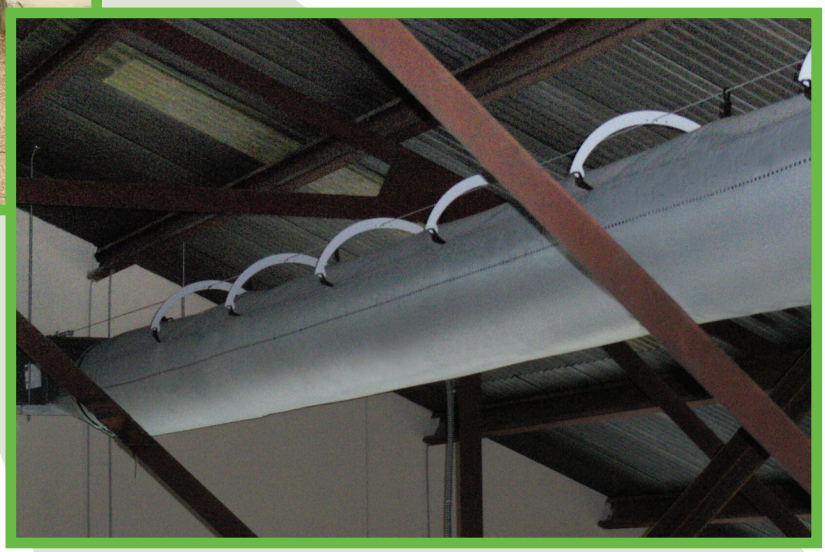
Fabric duct saved the project upwards of $15,000 in HVAC ductwork installation labor versus conventional round metal duct. Because fabric duct reduces dependence on precious metal resources and distributes air more energy efficiently than metal duct, its specification helped OCO achieve its sustainability mission while still enhancing the overall industrial theme of the interior design.

While sustainability and costs were important, OCO principals were very concerned how the custom-colored, silver-gray Sedona by DuctSox® Corp.,

case study



...compliments the industrial style, but it also adds a contrasting softness...



Dubuque, Iowa would compliment OCO's galvanized metal interiors and the preservation of the circa-1940's building's raw, industrial appearance while also providing indoor air comfort.

The former sheet-metal shop oozes plenty of charm and nostalgia, but it took some of OCO's best creativity to bring the 5,200-square-foot space up to 21st Century standards aesthetically as well as environmentally. Sixty years of grime were power-washed off the exposed steel trusses and corrugated metal deck of the gabled roof. As part of the building's energy conservation, OCO insulated the walls heavily and then finished them aesthetically with perforated steel. "We opted to retain the rugged industrial look," recalls Conrad. "The fabric duct compliments the industrial style, but it also adds a contrasting softness."

Adding to the sleek design is DuctSox's new 3x1 hanging system, which consists of stainless steel brackets that use a single cable suspension system. The 3x1 has three hanging contact points with the duct at the 10 and 2 o'clock positions to give the duct an inflated appearance even when air handling equipment is idle.

Conrad has been particularly impressed with the air comfort difference of fabric duct, which has linear diffusers that provide a gentle imperceptible airflow versus the drafty nature of metal duct with registers every 10 feet. Additionally, DuctSox's Sedona model uses Comfort-Flow technology which allows approximately 15 percent of the air to actually flow through the fabric's factory-engineered permeability. Comfort-Flow also eliminates dust from accumulating on top of the duct thus providing better IAQ, according to Scott Spiva, sales engineer for manufacturer's representative, Texas Air Products, San Antonio, who helped specify the product.

Although Comfort Air installed the single hanging cable for each of the 70-foot-long, 18-inch-diameter and 50-foot-long, 14-inch-diameter duct runs, Conrad and his partners negotiated the HVAC contract so they could install the actual duct to the cable runs. "Some people say fabric duct is difficult to install, but a couple of architects can install this much ductwork in just a half a day, we now know those assumptions are incorrect."

DUCTSOX®
Fabric Air Dispersion Products

4343 Chavenelle Road ■ Dubuque, IA 52002
Ph: 866-382-8769 ■ Fax: 563-589-2754
www.ductsox.com