



before



after

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
BATON ROUGE, LA

ARCHITECT
MBSB GROUP
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
ARRIGHI CONSTRUCTION
BATON ROUGE LA

MANUFACTURER
CPI DAYLIGHTING, INC.

CPI DAYLIGHTING *solutions*



The new CPI skylight encourages students to stop and enjoy a pleasant common gathering area.

THE SCIENCE OF DAYLIGHTING

The sun had gone down on Louisiana State University's Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex. The atrium skylight's top sheet of fiberglass was deteriorating, making it structurally suspect, while its panels were discolored, creating a dark cloud over the hall. Even the students stopped studying at the tables and congregating in the atrium.

After researching their options, architect Allen Bacqué, MBSB Group, Lafayette, Louisiana, chose CPI's Quadwall translucent insulated sandwich panel skylight with Pentaglas 10 clear over 8 white matte glazing for its performance, longevity and ability to provide as much light as possible with little heat gain.

"We didn't want it to feel like you were under a glass roof because of the heat from the sun," said Bacque, president, MBSB Group. "The benefit of the polycarbonate is that it will not yellow over time like the previous skylight did; I know that this time will be much better than what was there before."

The Quadwall skylight's fast-track construction began in October 2009 and lasted just three weeks. The installation was challenged by lack of access to the indoor atrium because of the building's continuous operation, potential exposure of the atrium's dinosaur relic and the inability to work through the weekends because of LSU football games. Removal of the old skylight and installation of the new skylight was completed exclusively from the roof during the week. Large cranes loaded the new materials onto the roof and, section by section, the old skylight was torn off and replaced with a 3,500-sq.-ft. Quadwall skylight.

"One of the challenges was that the building was opened to the weather with a crew doing the work," said Bacqué. "But, because it was installed by the CPI crew, that gave me a comfort factor that they've done this before."

Another challenge for the installation was hanging a 400-lb. fan from the existing aluminum tube frame at the center of the skylight. Using multi-directional guide wires for reinforcement, today the fan moves air in the space, making the atrium even more inviting for students and staff.

"Now the students are actually sitting in the atrium and studying, when they used to walk through the atrium just to get from one side of the building to another without stopping," said Dr. Carol Wicks, Chair of the Department of Geology and Physics, LSU. "With the new skylight, they stop and sit down at the tables that were always in there. The before and after photographs describe it better than any words."



before

The old deteriorated fiberglass skylight was replaced with a state-of-the-art Quadwall insulated translucent glazing system.



after

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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY'S HOWE-RUSSELL GEOSCIENCE COMPLEX

