

# Drywall and Versatility

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## Don't Be Too Surprised—But Here's Where Drywall Played a Role in a Flooring Job

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Of the many innovative uses found for drywall, this may be a first: Drywall Flooring!

Not only does the product provide excellent noise resistance, but also it

gives the floor in question a two-hour fire rating.

This most unusual use of drywall occurred in the Itasca Project, a pair of 5-story warehouses at 702 N. First

Street, near downtown Minneapolis. The project, designed by Cuningham Architects, Minneapolis, combines commercial and office space with 32 condominium units on the upper floors.

Berg Drywall, Minneapolis, was the drywall contractor, and Action Construction, Minneapolis, the general contractor.

Architect John Cuningham said drywall was used in the flooring of the condominium units to reduce noise.

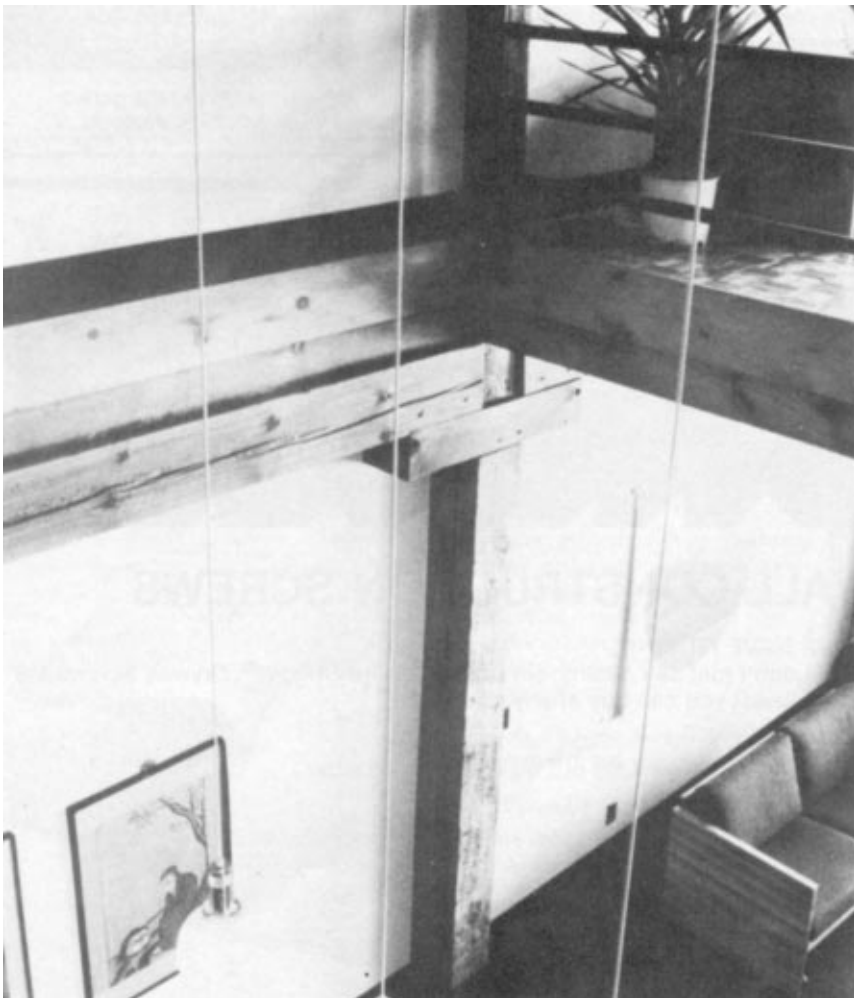
"We had a timber floor of 2½-inch decking over which we put a half-inch particle board. Then we installed three-eighths inch neoprene spacers and laid five-eighths inch plywood over them to give us an air space for a sound barrier.

"We put two layers of five-eighths inch fire code drywall over that for the all important separation between floors, and topped it all off with a final layer of five-eighths inch plywood.

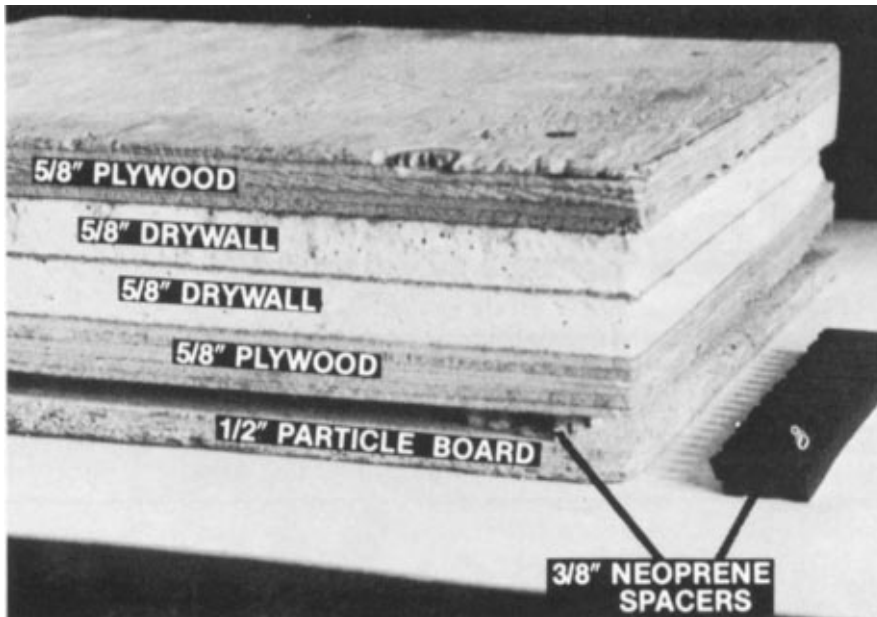
"What we ended up with was a super seven-layer floor, which because of the drywall, gave us the standard two-hour fire rating we needed plus a better than 50 decibel sound rating."

Cuningham went on to say that "nobody we talked to about this had ever heard of drywall being used as a part of a floor. Almost no noise comes up from below and the only way you could probably hear anything below is if you tapped on the floor with a hammer."

Housed in the Itasca Warehouses, which were built in 1887, the project also includes a shopping mall and the



Berg Drywall used drywall to build interesting accent walls between the original 100-year-old timbers of the two-story Itasca Condominiums.



Six layers of new, unique flooring were built over the original 2 1/2" timber floor of the Itasca Project. The final thickness is 5 7/8".

Children's Museum—a museum of science and technology for children.

In addition to the innovative use as part of the flooring, drywall also plays an important role in other ways: it is

used between the condominiums and the corridor to provide a two-hour fire separation, and it completely encases two stair towers in the buildings, also providing two-hour fire protection.