The sumptuous marble entrance of the Tenly Sports Center on Wisconsin Avenue in Washington, D.C. is complimented by its decorative suspended plaster ceiling.

When image is important—as in upscale hotel lobbies, casinos and ballrooms, executive suites and restaurants—suspended plaster tiles can provide the right touch of tasteful elegance.

The designers of Raleigh’s Memorial Auditorium had two primary goals, one aesthetic and one acoustic. The aesthetic goal was to create an impressive assembly hall that would match the structure’s distinctive architecture. The acoustic goal was to reflect sound back into the hall.

To accomplish this, the Boston firm handling the acoustic aspects of the building’s design specified one in. thick ceiling tiles, double the standard ½ in. thickness. At the same time, special weight constraints required that the ceiling tiles weigh less than 3 lbs/sq ft.

Tiles, Inc. dba Above View, a suspended plaster ceiling tile manufacturer, used existing patterns to create double thickness tiles which would meet the weight requirements and provided the aesthetic details the architects desired.

The tiles are manufactured using gypsum cement, glass fibers and other non-combustible aggregates.

Designs range from the classic egg and dart design to art nouveau curlcuques to contemporary clean lines and geometric simplicity. The standard factory finish is ceiling white satin latex, but 1300 colors are available plus faux woodstain, faux marble and custom painting effects using more than one color per tile.

According to Tiles Inc. President Nina Kuper and her partner, Janis Kalnajs, the tiles have been installed in a variety of facilities: Harvard University, the Riverboat Center at Dubuque, IA, Union Station in Chicago, Las Vegas casinos, Hawaiian cruise ships and even US Coast guard flagships.

—Photos courtesy of Tiles, Inc. dba Above View

Suspended plaster tiles were also used above the swimming pool at the Tenly Sports Center.

A faux marble finish was applied to the plaster ceiling tiles in this charming lobby area at NASA headquarters, Offit Air Force Base, Omaha, NE. Note the air force insignia on the rear wall.

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