Burke Nicholson, president of Bayside Interiors, Inc. of Fremont, Calif., took a few moments to tell Construction Dimensions about his company’s two prize-winning drywall projects for some interesting clients. The first project, Building #9 for Silicon Graphics, Inc., won Bayside the Northern California Drywall Contractors/Drywall Information

Left: Exposed studs were left inside the round conference rooms on the first floor; And a sloped conference room on the second reaches toward the skylight soffit; Bottom left and below: Stretching from the first floor to the roof are 38-foot long, 18-gauge studs.
Top: If you look up the lobby stairwell of #10, you’ll see a skylight surrounded by custom curved, drywall ceilings.

Left: The bathroom on the first floor has a curved and sloped wall, topped off with a rounded soffit.

Right: Going up the stairs to the second floor, a 36-foot tall sloped wall runs into the curved ceiling.

Trust Fund Design Contest in 1989. Bayside won the same prize three years later for SGI Building #10. Nicholson feels bayside would have won again the following year for their work at the Apple Computer Training Facility, but a “no repeat” rule kept them from entering.

The photos in this pictorial will help you see what we’re talking about here, for without the pictures, it would be difficult to try to visualize some of these unusual building designs.

Silicon Graphics, Inc.

Silicon Graphics, Inc., one of the fastest-growing high-tech firms in Silicon Valley, has offices worldwide, but it was its headquarters in Mountain View, Calif., that President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore visited in February, to learn about the company’s leading-edge technology and how an emerging growth company can positively impact the country’s economic future.

A manufacturer of high-performance visual computing systems, the company delivers interactive three-dimensional graphics, digital media and multiprocessing supercomputing technologies to technical, scientific and creative professionals. Silicon’s high-tech computer ad-
Top: The low walls beyond the lobby have sloped and angled tops. The bi-level, curved ceilings were built by Bayside Interiors.

Middle: Skylights are above the conference rooms on the second floor of Building #10, and the stairwell outside the rooms are inlaid with glass block.

Bottom: Look up from the vending area, outside a conference room on the second floor, and you'll find customer framed gypsum ceilings and soffits.

Advancements were utilized in such movies as Jurassic Park, Terminator 2 and Star Wars.

Silicon Graphics needed to put together a construction team that could “fast track” construction to give them facilities as quickly as they developed new products. They chose Studios, an architectural firm in San Francisco, and Devcon Construction, Inc. of Milpitas, Calif., as the general contractor.

Bayside Interiors, Inc. became a part of the team in 1986. They have worked on 14 SGI projects to date, but the two most notable are Buildings #9 and #10.

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**SGI Building #9.** To give SGI an environment of openness and free thinking, Studios designed a second wall outside the first wall. The lower portion of the outside wall was made
Top to bottom: The main lobby of Building #5 has a 38-foot high sloped display case and curved elevator shaft.

Sunlight from the skylights reflects of the curved wall covered with brushed galvanized sheet metal in the main lobby of Building #11.

Building #11 also features “the flying wing,” which is 44 feet long by 8 feet wide at one end, and 24 feet wide at the center. Free-floating and suspended from the roof, the wing is not only curved but sloped from end to end. Below the wing is a “waved wall” with a curved and sloped top.

**Apple Computer Training Facility**

“The angles of the cone were enormous,” Nicholson said. The canted cone, which is 50 feet in diameter and 38 feet high, is the building’s main lobby. Inside the cone are walkways, the elevator and a stairwell. The walls of the cone were sloped about 7 feet.

The low wall of the cone, complete with reveals, runs across the second floor.
with gypsum lath and plaster, and the balance of the exposed studs was left as the finished product. Portions of exposed studs were used over entry doors to private offices.

Special fixtures, unusual paint colors and a floating ceiling that is only attached to the walls on one end combine to give the folks at SGI exactly what they wanted—a feeling of openness.

The focal point of #9 is the Peanut Room, the main bathroom core, which is shaped like a peanut, with the men’s room on one side and the ladies’ room on the other.

From Bayside’s standpoint, according to Nicholson, they are very proud that it took them only 60 days to install 275,000 linear feet of metal studs and 250,000 square feet of gypsum board of custom-type work. The job was finished to a level 4 finish, which means all joints and angles have tape embedded in joint compound and three separate coats of joint compound over all joints, angles, fastener heads and accessories. (The levels of finish can be found in a publication titled, Recommended Specification: Levels of Gypsum Board Finish, which is presented for use as a guide by the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries—International, the Ceilings & Interior Systems Construction Association, the Gypsum Association and the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America.)

**APPLE COMPUTER TRAINING FACILITY**

The focal point of the Apple Computer Training Facility, Mountain View, Calif., is a large cone that penetrates two floors. It is intended to “grab” the trainees as they enter the front door, giving the impression that “Apple World” would be a new and dynamic experience.

Hanging rectangular, 5/8-inch rock on a canted cone meant that individual cuts for each piece had to...
be created. As hanging progressed up the cone, the sheet went from a horizontal application to near vertical. A difficult part of the project was taping was to a level 5 finish in order to accept Zolatone, an unusual paint that, when dry, has a multicolor finish. (A level 5 finish is similar to a level 4 finish except that level 5 also requires a thin skim coat of joint compound be applied to the entire surface so that it is smooth and free of tool marks and ridges.)

**A PERFECT PARTNERING**

Nicholson says he attended a seminar on “partnering” last year and was able to recognize that this was what was happening on these projects.

Special fixtures, unusual paint colors and a floating ceiling that is only attached to the walls on one end, combine to give a feeling of openness.

“We were really fortunate to be a part of this team,” he says. “We had owners who had a great deal of confidence in Studios [the architects] and Devcon Construction [the general contractor]. What really made it work was Devcon’s project managers and superintendents working closely with all the subcontractors, the SGI facility manager and Studios.”

For some of the SGI buildings, jobs were started before the contractors had finished plans. Good communications with all the individuals involved, from the architect to the electrician to the painter, meant that most problems were solved in the field with very little delay and all the projects were finished on time.

“If it hadn’t been for this team,” Nicholson said, “it wouldn’t have happened.”

**ABOUT BAYSIDE**

Bayside Interiors, Inc. was formed in 1984. With a specialization in tenant improvements, the company employs 50 union drywallers and tapers and brings in between $4 million and $5.5 million a year.

Nicholson senses as a board member of the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries—International, the Northern California Drywall Contractors Association and the Bay Area American Subcontractors Association. He is also a trustee of the Drywall/Lathing Apprenticeship Board and the 46 Northern California Carpenters Pension and Annuity Plans.