



Allsteel®

PROJECT PROFILE

**ASHRAE**  
{ ATLANTA, GEORGIA }

“I think what made this project so unique was that we were working with one of the more educated clients in terms of sustainability, and the Allsteel team also had the necessary expertise.”

Mark Brandli, Design Principal, LEED AP, Richard Wittschiebe Hand

## CHALLENGE

When the gold standard in green building efficiency renovated its own office space, Allsteel was there. The Atlanta-based American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) is known for advancing technology and promoting a more sustainable world through research, standards writing, publishing, and continuing education.

ASHRAE set out to achieve LEED®-NC certification for its building when renovating two floors of the 31,000-square-foot office space and adding a 4,500-square-foot expansion to create the ASHRAE Foundation Learning Center.

This sustainability goal caught the attention of Allsteel's local Architecture and Design Specialist. “It was really important to me that Allsteel earn ASHRAE's furniture business because of who they are in the world of green buildings.”

The challenge for Allsteel and architectural design firm Richard Wittschiebe Hand (RWH) was moving 125 people with an abundance of files and materials into a smaller space while giving them a more open, light-infused work area that was functional, quiet, and engaging. Additionally, the team was challenged to earn LEED credits and exceed ASHRAE standards for energy consumption while maintaining high-quality indoor air.



## SOLUTION

In choosing Allsteel as its office solutions partner, RWH's lead architect on the project said it was a collaborative effort from the beginning. "Allsteel offered more than was asked," said Mark Brandli, Design Principal, LEED AP at RWH. "In today's competitive, budget-conscious environment, the solutions and ideas for efficiencies were an important point of distinction for Allsteel."

ASHRAE's group of decision-makers immediately agreed on Allsteel's Reach and Terrace products as the office solution they were looking for. Reach offers a more organized, open workspace and utilizes floor space efficiently. Plus, Reach allows for more easily accessible storage space and a more comfortable arrangement in each workstation.

"The employees feel they still have privacy within an 'office-like' environment, while glass tiles and natural daylight combine to allow openness and light throughout the space," said Allsteel's A&D Specialist. "The use of the glass tiles in the workstation panels was instrumental in allowing more efficient light fixture spacing while maintaining light levels on worksurfaces," according to Michael Snyder, Project Architect, LEED AP at RWH.

The new open plan configuration provides for a more efficient floorplan and invites more team collaboration.

## GAINS

ASHRAE achieved LEED-NC Platinum certification.

Allsteel's Reach storage allowed ASHRAE to locate 125 workers in 75% of the space used previously for 107 employees without feeling crowded.

The office environment is open, yet employees feel like they still have visual and acoustical privacy.

SCS Indoor Advantage™ Gold certification ensured Allsteel furniture contributed to the goal of high-quality indoor air for employees.

ASHRAE has reduced its estimated annual energy use by more than 28.8% through energy-efficient lighting, enhancements to its building envelope, and use of a dedicated outdoor air system with energy recovery, ground-source heat pumps, and minisplit systems with heat recovery. The amount of the building's site runoff has been reduced by 34%. And ASHRAE has successfully increased the amount of vegetated open space by 45.2% above local code requirement.\*



## ALLSTEEL PRODUCTS

Terrace® frame-and-tile system, Reach® and Persona™ storage, Extensions™ work tools, Relate® seating

\*Source: High Performance Buildings, Fall 2008

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## EXPERIENCE

Another of the many tipping points for Allsteel winning over this sustainability-focused client was the opportunity for the design firm and ASHRAE to visit Allsteel headquarters.

"To be able to test the chairs, sit in workstations, see the glass panels, and consider the acoustics was invaluable," said Brandli. While at Allsteel, the client was given a tour, met with executives, and received firsthand information about the company's environmental commitment in its manufacturing process, as well as the myriad of Allsteel green office solutions.

According to Brandli, ASHRAE is very pleased with the outcome. "They love the space, and they are happy with the furniture," he said.

"I think what made this project so unique was that we were working with one of the more educated clients, in terms of sustainability and many other green elements, than we've ever worked with before. So it was like designing a house for the Wizard of Oz," said Brandli. "They knew what they wanted; we just had to help them get there."

**"It was a great experience working with Allsteel, and the furniture reflects the ASHRAE brand."**

Mark Brandli, Design Principal, LEED AP, Richard Wittschiebe Hand

For more information about Allsteel solutions, please visit [allsteeloffice.com](http://allsteeloffice.com).

Allsteel®

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Allsteel supports green initiatives in the contract furniture industry as a member of the U.S. Green Building Council. Reach and Terrace are SCS Indoor Advantage™ Gold and level™ certified products.

