

Stanford University



▲ The display wall in Stanford University's Peter Wallenberg Learning Theater comprises 192 Christie MicroTiles.

Stanford showcases a modern, collaborative learning environment

Mined from Greystone Quarry in California's Santa Teresa Hills over 100 years ago, the ubiquitous yellow sandstone bricks that form the structural foundation of Stanford University's oldest buildings speak to the long-standing legacy of this preeminent research and teaching institution. One such building, Wallenberg Hall, completed in 1900, has housed the library, administrative center, law school and department of political science throughout its century-long history.

Today, Wallenberg Hall represents the latest in collaborative learning spaces, bolstered by state-of-the-art technologies which include an impressive video wall comprising 192 Christie® MicroTiles®. "It is the first of its kind," states Bob Smith, Stanford's Director of Technology Services, "it's an innovation in classroom technology that's providing great opportunities already."

Beginning in 1999, Stanford embarked on a project to transform Wallenberg Hall into a modern learning center. A central part of the upgrade was updating the Peter Wallenberg Learning Theater – a versatile, multi-use classroom.

"The MicroTiles were gorgeous and ruin you for standard displays. They're really just beautiful."

Bob Smith
Director of Technology Services, Stanford

The original integration employed three Christie projectors, but when it came time to update the space in 2012, a video wall made up of Christie MicroTiles was chosen as a replacement. Based on Smith's experience having implemented Christie MicroTiles in the school's visitor center, they were his first display technology choice. "I knew the

Customer:
Stanford University

Location:
Stanford, CA

Industry/Market:
Higher education

Partner:
Sound-Image

Requirements:

- High-resolution display
- Ease-of-use
- Display capable of being windowed

Summary:
Representatives at Stanford University embarked on a project to transform its Wallenberg Hall into a modern learning center. A central part of the upgrade was updating the Peter Wallenberg Learning Theater with an innovative display wall comprising 192 Christie MicroTiles.

Products:

- Christie MicroTiles

Results:
Students, faculty and staff have been very enthusiastic about the newly updated Learning Theater. Several classes, seminars and special events have been hosted in the room with great success.

MicroTiles were gorgeous and ruin you for standard displays," says Smith, "they're really just beautiful."

Since the Learning Theater is a general assignment room that isn't tied to any specific department, it was important that it be highly-flexible and easy to use for both instructors and students. "We wanted to build on the strengths of the space," says Smith. "We needed the ability to show multiple representations of whatever is going on in the class, up on the wall at the same time." To achieve this, systems integrator, Sound-Image, installed a Jupiter Fusion Catalyst 4000 display wall controller that allows up to 16 independent sources to be displayed on the wall. Providing intuitive, touchscreen control of the content is an innovative application that, according to Smith, allows "anyone to walk in and learn how to operate it very quickly."

Being able to layer the display wall in zones showing different sources of information is truly beneficial to the collaborative aspects of the room. "We wanted to be able to scale the size of each contributing machine on the screen to be scaled according to its importance," explains Smith, "it allows us to flexibly adjust the visual rhetoric of the screen by making important things bigger, less critical things smaller and move them around accordingly. It basically allowed us to play the game of information visualization at a much higher level, with a much higher level of flexibility."

With seating that can accommodate around 60 students, the dimensions of the Learning Theater required that all available space be used. With a native resolution of 720x540 per tile, the wall of Christie MicroTiles allow

students and instructors to sit and work closer to the screen, increasing the usable seating space of the room while also providing a deep and rich display that can be seen from any angle or distance. Being able to work this close to the wall allows smaller groups of students to work independently with the wall, while also sharing information pertinent to the entire class. "There's information that is common to everyone in the room that is spread across the top of the screen, and at the same time, smaller groups can essentially use it as an extension of their laptop."

With the success of the Christie MicroTiles wall in the Wallenberg Learning Theater, other departments at Stanford are taking notice. "There is a group that is taking the lead in refitting a conference room," says Smith. "They were looking at the Learning Center and wanted to do something similar on a smaller scale. So they implemented a six-panel array of Christie's ultra-narrow bezel flat panels. It's being adopted by our research folks, saying we want the ability to simultaneously put up multiple machines, multiple representations, multiple arguments from different people and arrange them as is appropriate."

Having had the display wall operational for two years, the value is being realized by both students and faculty. As time goes on, the real advantage of this new model for learning will become apparent, says Smith. "You've got something that is tremendously capable and very exciting. Once you can get a handle on what the possibilities are – you're seeing the apotheosis of a group work scenario with this room."



▲ Known for amazing image quality, vibrant, true-to-life colors, Christie MicroTiles can be configured into displays of any size or shape.

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