

Case Study | Roosevelt University

About the customer:

A coeducational, private university with campuses in Chicago, Illinois and Schaumburg, Illinois founded in 1945. The university is named in honor of both former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The university's curriculum is based on principles of social justice and currently the university enrolls around 7,000 students between its undergraduate and graduate programs. <http://www.roosevelt.edu/>



Location:

Chicago, IL

RT London Sales Representative:

Al Keener, Independent Representative,
RT London, Grand Rapids, MI

Design Firm:

Patricia Rotondo, VOA Architects,
Chicago, IL

**About the project:**

Designed by VOA Architects, the Wabash Building is the second tallest collegiate building in the country and the sixth tallest in the world. The lower 15 floors are a mix of classrooms, labs, offices, and student services and activities. Above are 17 floors designed to house more than 600 students in apartments with spectacular views of the city and Lake Michigan.

The Need:

For the student apartments, the furniture had to meet the overall design criteria of quality and aesthetics, and stay true to Roosevelt's goal of sustainability, which meant furniture that was not only crafted of sustainable materials but also manufactured within 500 miles of the University.

"We wanted the furniture to blend in with our unique building and not stand out or look too trendy," says Patricia Rotondo of VOA Architects, who served as lead designer on the project. "Because we were dealing with a lot of different entities, we had to go through a very careful selection process to be able to decide what furniture to go with."

The RT London Solution:

In the process of finalizing design details, RT London was asked to propose a wardrobe solution that could replace built-in closets. Working closely with the design team, RT London designers and engineers modified existing components to create a custom wardrobe that met the budget and, over the long term, would provide more flexibility than built-ins.

When the building was completed in the spring of 2012, RT London delivered the 634-bed project to downtown Chicago in 19 trailers in 8 days.

"I can't say enough good things about my experience with RT London, It has been a great representation of your firm and your furniture," Rotondo says. "I'm glad Al Keener took the phone call that day and was willing to drive a truck into the city of Chicago loaded with furniture and a mattress."

