



CASE STUDY:
WURTELE STUDY CENTER
at IVY LEAGUE UNIVERSITY

New Haven, Connecticut



Storage Solved®



An Ivy League University wanted to protect its art collection while making it more visible and accessible.

Creating an immersive learning experience

As the oldest college art museum in the United States, this institution has been assembling a diverse collection, both in terms of origin and medium, since 1832. But the collection was largely inaccessible to both the university academic community and the public. In order to incorporate the collection's 200,000+ pieces into teaching and study programs, and to upgrade to modern storage standards, the Ivy League University acquired its West Campus, a space formerly occupied by Bayer Pharmaceuticals, and created the Margaret and Angus Wurtele Study Center.

In collaboration with other top quality vendors, Spacesaver helped create a sleek, functional, open learning environment in the 49,000 square foot space that, as the principal architect Jeff Weatherston of Weatherston Bruer Associates said, "answers the question of what kinds of facilities are possible."







Designing a new space for education and appreciation

Changing the 49,000-square-foot open space into a learning environment that encompassed all of the Wurtele Study Center's needs was a massive, multi-part challenge. Prototype cabinets developed for the bidding process were tested for durability, functionality, and ability to maintain a micro-climate environment, which required a series of CO₂ leak-down tests to determine the integrity of door seals and fittings. Spacesaver was confirmed as the company of choice due to its high quality and attention to detail during each phase of the process.

In order to maximize vertical storage space, Spacesaver designed both stackable and full-height cabinets that totaled the exact 111" available. These cabinets use a combination of a custom, hybridized system of removable and permanent drawers, along with glass-front display units that were engineered to provide a controlled micro-climate environment to protect the pieces inside.



Working together to maximize space

“We made 600 part drawings just for this project,” explained Ben Adamitus, a Spacesaver design engineer. By installing museum cabinets on Spacesaver compact mobile carriages, the museum was able to eliminate wasted aisle space between cabinets. The combination of Spacesaver museum cabinets on Spacesaver mobile systems provided flexibility and a significant space savings for the Wurtele Study Center’s ongoing educational needs.

Throughout the project, Spacesaver’s local distributor and its project management team worked in partnership with

the project architect and other vendors to achieve successful completion. “The collaboration between vendors was exceptional,” said Carol DeNatale, Deputy Director of Operations for the University Art Gallery.

Spacesaver distinguished themselves by actively resolving issues and adjusting to scheduling requirements. The vendors not only had to maintain their own time lines, but also work with the timing of the overall building renovation.





Everyone involved in outfitting the Wurtele Study Center agrees that the project has been a huge success.

Through functional, durable storage systems, the University Art Gallery is well on its way to achieving the accessibility needed to carry out its educational mission. Students, researchers, and the public can enjoy a more immersive study experience as these storage systems become home to many of the more than 200,000 pieces of artwork being moved to the University's West Campus.

"The collaboration between vendors was exceptional."

***- Carol DeNatale
Deputy Director of Operations for the Ivy League University Art Gallery.***





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