

Sunnyvale, California

415 MATHILDA



The Problem

Showcasing that eco-friendly building practices are affordable, two California companies partnered for a revolutionary renovation. Sharp Development Company and Hillhouse Construction sought to transform a 1970s office building in Sunnyvale into a vibrant space that produces zero-net energy. To attain their goal, they needed to decrease dependence on air conditioning in the 34,875-sq-ft (3,239-sq-m) facility. Important, too, was that the cooling system be not just cost-effective but silent. "Acoustics is huge for us," said developer Kevin Bates. "The size of the space meant silent operation was critical."

The Solution

The companies installed 31 Haiku® and four Isis® fans from Big Ass Fans®. As part of an occupant-centric system, the fans silently distribute air throughout the large, open space and lower perceived temperatures around 5°F (2.8°C). At night, automatic windows open and the fans draw in cool outdoor air for use the next day, decreasing the need for air conditioning. The fans not only slash energy costs; they also reduce HVAC maintenance and overall environmental impact. The building is so impressive that it now rents for many times the standard premium rate.

"THE BIG ASS FANS WERE CRITICAL IN COST-EFFECTIVELY DRIVING THE BUILDING TO BE SUSTAINABLE. THEY'VE DONE EXACTLY WHAT WE HOPED THEY WOULD DO."

Kevin Bates, developer
Sharp Development Company