When the Mayo Clinic broke ground on the $441 million Gonda Building, design manager Stan Larson said every purchase was carefully reviewed to ensure it would deliver long-term value.

“With the pressure of construction costs, we needed to deliver good quality within budget,” he said. Because Larson had successfully used a variety of Williams Downlighting products in past Mayo remodeling projects, he knew the company could meet the high standards required in a new world-class medical complex. “With some of our key lighting applications, we chose Williams Downlighting because they consistently deliver high performance at a competitive price.”

While Williams Downlighting was widely used in conference rooms, offices and hallways, a critical application was illuminating employee cafeteria and break room areas. As part of the open foyer design, the project called for colored-glass downlights in these locations that would be visible from the building’s main atrium. Though Williams Downlighting offered four standard colored-glass options for its recessed fluorescent fixtures, the company successfully delivered a broader palette of custom colors required by the Gonda project.

“This application had some really precise needs,” said Rob Chasse of JTH Lighting in Eagan, MN, who partnered with Larson on the project. “Williams Downlighting collaborated with its glass suppliers to make sure the final product was what the architect and lighting designers wanted.”

Mayo’s attention to detail has paid handsome dividends. The 20-story Gonda Building has received several architectural awards – including honors from the International Interior Design Association for excellence in interior lighting.

“The workmanship on the Williams Downlighting fixtures always seems to be higher than some of the other manufacturers that just stamp them out,” Larson said. “When I first saw their factory, I was impressed with their design ideas, manufacturing processes, and work ethic. Time and time again, that shows in the results we get in working with them.”