HARRY RANSOM CENTER RENOVATION
University of Texas at Austin

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THESIS RESEARCH PROPOSAL
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Executive Summary

This report outlines thesis work to be completed during spring semester 2007. Extensive research and design work will be undertaken in Harry Ransom Center's lighting and electrical distribution systems. The redesign of the electrical distribution system will concentrate on the renovated first and second floors, including the Prothro Family Theatre. Most of the fluorescent lighting systems are currently fed at 120 Volts will be redesigned to operate at 277 Volts. Likewise, branch circuits and panel boards in these areas will be redesigned. Lighting system work will be limited to the entrance canopy/building façade, lobby, north and south corridor/lobby areas, theatre, the Ransom Center gallery, and the second floor reading room. Within these spaces a concentrated study and redesign will be developed for unique situations such as the first photograph display area, the Gutenberg Bible display, donor walls and easel wall displays for temporary artifact research. In conjunction with electrical and lighting systems, a breadth study of architectural and mechanical elements will be incorporated into the thesis work. Breadth work, limited to the Ransom Center gallery and theatre, will encompass the following: a complete redesign of the ceiling systems, including selection of new material; a reorganization of temporary and permanent gallery display partitions; redesign of mechanical distribution systems; an acoustical study; overall coordination and integration of all systems to complete construction documentation of these areas.