

LIGHTING DEPTH

Introduction

The University of California, San Diego Cal IT² building is a large research, academic building. As stated earlier, the building is used for lectures, laboratory experiments, private offices, and a small black-box theater set to the side. Because of the many uses, the lighting must incorporate all of these as well as have a central theme for its design in the building. Being a telecommunications study research facility, it contains many computer servers and serves as a path from one end of the wire to the other. Movement is prevalent all around this building from the bustle of the people inside, to the wires processing data from one end to the other. Cal IT² acts as a large computer hub and was the main concept for my lighting redesign. There were four major design goals in mind when redesigning my spaces. I wanted to guide people through the building using light, provide a feeling of technological advancement as you move through the space, provide a comfortable atmosphere to be able to work long hours, and have a welcoming yet humble entering atmosphere.

The first space I chose to redesign was the large research cluster on the third floor commonly known as 3100. This very open office space is surrounded by private offices with an exposed ceiling to the structural and mechanical members. In this space, I have redesigned the lighting for all the private offices as well as the coves, entrances, and the large open office area. Linear sources were a major impact in this space.

The second space I chose was the black-box theater. This space proved to be very challenging and involved the most layers of lighting. With the theater being 2 stories tall and having architectural and acoustical surfaces to work around, the space was limited to location for many of the fixtures. In this space I custom designed a fixture which makes a great impact in the theater as well as provided the different levels of light for all of its various functions.

The third space I chose was the main entrance lobby from the academic courtyard. This space actually contained three spaces in all. With its odd shape and many connections to the outside, it proved difficult to design. The clean lined walls and various height ceilings made this space a beacon for movement. All the lights designed in these spaces have a “motion” to them and guide people through the space. The lobby leads into the gallery which showcases some works of art and a view into the computer server room which houses most of the buildings back-up software. In conjunction with both of these spaces, an underground tunnel is connected to both of these rooms through clear windows. This underground tunnel keeps this theme of movement while also showing the “guts” of the building as if walking through the insides of a server.

The fourth and final space chosen for a redesign is the academic courtyard. For this exterior space, feelings of comfort and safety were a main focus in this design. I also wanted to lead people into the building and tunnel by highlighting certain areas slightly more than others. Through the use of different sources and types of fixtures, I have made the courtyard a pleasant and safe atmosphere.