

A R C H I T E C T U R A L

LIGHTING

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Columbia's Dining & Dancing

THE UNIVERSITY'S ALUMNI AUDITORIUM AND BARD HALL CAFETERIA ARE GIVEN UP-TO-DATE LOOKS WITH A DASH OF DECO BY LIGHTING DESIGNER ANN KALE

BY WANDA JANKOWSKI, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ALUMNI AUDITORIUM: (Below) Ceiling layers are defined by concealed fluorescent uplights. Compact fluorescent downlights provide illumination for taking notes, and viewing visuals.



Before its renovation, the Alumni Auditorium at Columbia University in New York City was illuminated with a series of 300-watt, PAR 56 downlights in a scattered "Swiss-cheese" pattern. The oval beam-spreads of the fixtures required exact orientation which, if not maintained, would produce large shadow areas on portions of the seating area. Some downlights were placed within two feet of the walls and produced distracting irregular patterns.

New York-based lighting designer Ann Kale rose to the challenge of relighting the multi-purpose public space. The renovated auditorium incorporates angled, multi-layered ceiling steps defined with bands of concealed fluorescent uplights. Though there was no space available to overlap the lamps, socket shadows are avoided due to the existence of square portholes for theatrical fixtures.

The auditorium is used part of the time for lecture series. This is the main auditorium on campus, which includes a medical center. Consequently, the lighting had to be adequate for intensive note taking and reading, as well as viewing slides, blackboards and other visual materials.

Recessed adjustable accent downlights installed in the stepped ceiling contain 250-watt PAR 38 floods chosen for their excellent color rendering and long life (approximately 6,000 hours). Dimming the lamps lengthens the life to a span about equal to that of fluorescents. Downlights are accessed from above the ceiling for easy maintenance.

Columbia University's theatrical group, the Bard Hall Players, has a long tradition of quality productions, and so a complete stage lighting system has been installed. Kale notes that before the auditorium was revamped, the theater group used to perform

COFFERED CAFETERIA: (Right) Custom acrylic and aluminum pendants complement the coffers discovered in the original ceiling after the existing ceiling tiles had been peeled away. The pendants are lamped with eight compact fluorescents each. Incandescent monopoints accent the artwork. (Below right) The cafeteria's lounge area is highlighted with aluminum sconces. Compact fluorescent downlights provide general illumination.



on tabletops in the old dining hall, and so they are most appreciative now of their first "real stage."

Not shown in the photograph, but later installed, are custom designed, perforated aluminum linear fixtures in the low ceiling that runs around the perimeter of the back of the auditorium with matching sconces adorning the walls.

Before the renovation, the ceiling in Bard Hall cafeteria was formed by 1-foot by 1-foot glued-on tiles, which included 4-foot by 4-foot surface-mounted fluorescent fixtures and large chandeliers.

Since the style of the building that houses the cafeteria is Art Deco, the client requested the room be redesigned to reflect it. When it came time to strip away the existing luminaires and ceiling, Kale discovered that behind the tiles, octagonal coffers from the original ceiling existed within 18 inches of where the new custom designed pendant luminaires were to be suspended. The new design was modified to enable the pendants to be suspended from the center of the coffers. The deep coffers have been painted to match the aluminum trim of the pendants.

Each circular pendant has an opaque acrylic diffuser and is fitted with eight PL 13 compact fluorescents. The pendants are circuited to allow either four or all eight lamps to be lit.

Two types of lighting are used in the lounge area. Semi-circular aluminum sconces lamped with compact fluorescents have been wall-mounted on the structural columns and provide uplight. The recessed downlights are also fitted with compact fluorescents. The only incandescent light sources are used in the monopoint fixtures positioned to accent wall-hung artwork.



DETAILS

PROJECT: COLUMBIA'S ALUMNI AUDITORIUM & BARD HALL CAFETERIA, NEW YORK, NY

ARCHITECT: BELMONT FREEMAN ARCHITECTS

LTG. DESIGNER: ANN KALE ASSOCIATES, INC.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER: MIKE JACOB,

ATKINSON KOVEN FEINBERG ENGINEERS, LLP

PHOTOGRAPHERS: CHRISTOPHER WESNOSFKE

(p. 22) and EDUARD HEUBER (p. 23)

LIGHTING MANUFACTURERS: LIGHTOLIER, EDISON PRICE, BOYD, WINONA, MICHAEL'S LIGHTING, LIGHTING SERVICES INC., CJ LIGHTING