

AE 481W

TECHNICAL REPORT 1A | LIGHTING PROPOSAL



Towson West Village Commons

*Towson University
Towson, Maryland*

Advisor: Dr. Richard Mistrick | Author: Patrick Morgan

Proposal

Towson West Village Commons is a multi-use facility with a great amount of flexibility. The current lighting design is rather rigid and provides light to the space with very little character. For my thesis, I am proposing the lighting redesign of 5 major key spaces.

1. Large Work Space: HRL Suite
2. Special Purpose Space: Banquet Room/Seminar Rooms
3. Circulation Space: Grand Staircase
4. Outdoor Space: Outdoor Roof Garden
5. Special Purpose Space 2: Student Lounge

The banquet room/seminar rooms will be analyzed from three different perspectives, resulting in three different schematic designs. The student lounge offers ample opportunity to be studied under various psychological conditions. The initial concept will be to study the feeling of spaciousness and closure. Each of these spaces will be commented more in-depth later in this memo.

HRL Suite: Large Work Space

Located at the south end of the third floor, the HRL Suite is a key work space for both full time and student employees. The HRL (Housing and Residence Life) Suite is recessed into the building and will receive no daylighting. This puts a heavy dependence on the lighting scheme. Currently being employed is a 2 x 2 acoustical ceiling tile interlaced with 2 x 2 recessed T5 high output fixtures. The ceiling is set at a height of 10' -0" above finished floor. The space is approximately 950 square feet (about 24' x 34') and is surrounded by typical painted gypsum wall board. The floor is finished in Mannington "New Possibilities line", color: Imagine. Paint finish will be MPI#145 (eggshell white).

Each individual suite is divided by a systems furniture partition. Each cubicle will be used for computer use, reading, writing and other general office tasks. This space will be treated purely like an office environment. Also located inside the room is a small counter top for basic food prep. This counter will need to be addressed for the lighting concerns of basic food preparation along with treating it as a possible reading space. Since the suite is surrounded by private offices, an emphasis will also need to be placed on the flow of people through the space.

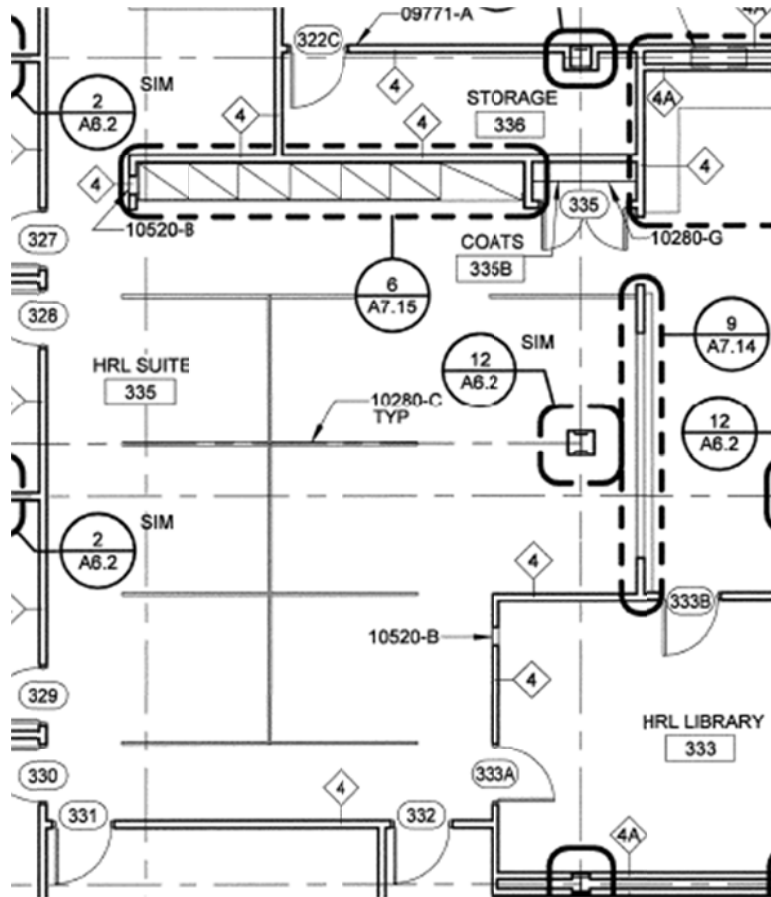
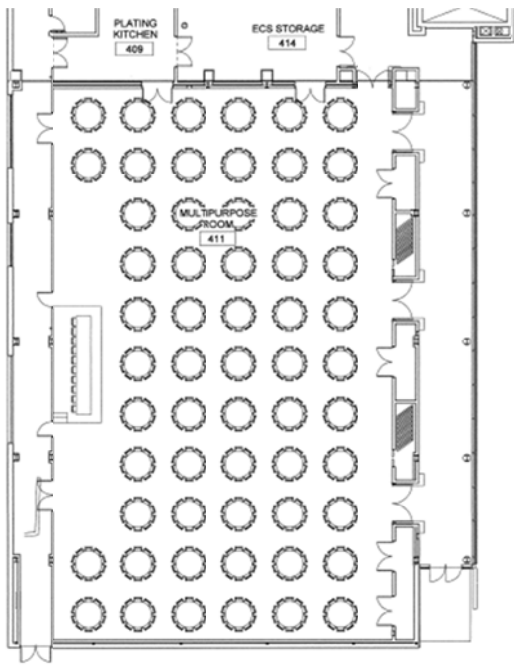


Figure 1 HRL Suite Layout

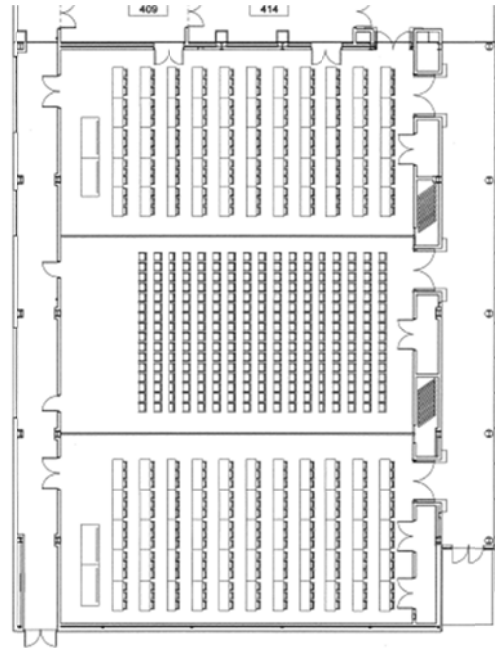
Banquet Room: Special Purpose Space

Typical Banquet Spaces are rather large and uniform. Occasionally a space will have the ability to be divided into two halves. This space has the ability to become three separate seminar halls and should be treated as such. The space will serve lectures, organizational gatherings, student functions and even gatherings for the administration. It is important that a room of such importance takes on a lighting scheme that provides a high aesthetic value, while being as flexible as the space. The space is designed with the intent that transition between one large room and three smaller lecture rooms can be achieved in just a few minutes. Lighting schematics will look at designing each space independently, as one large space ignoring the dividers, or a flexible lighting that moves with the room transition. The lighting scheme will need to provide light for dining, reading, writing, viewing a speaker, athletic activities such as yoga, and individual contact during a career fair.

The architectural features of the room include 2 different carpet types to define the space, both Mannington carpet lines. Gypsum board ceiling and acoustical tile ceiling are merged to try and define the space from above. Walls once again are egg shell white painted GWB. The overall dimension of the space is 76' by 115', totaling at about 8,000 square feet.



One Room Setup



Three Room Setup

Grand Staircase: Circulation Space

As one enters the building from the West Village quad, the grand staircase quickly becomes the focus of attention. The entire first floor lobby and staircase is covered in stone, surrounded by a wood panel wall. Gypsum painted ceiling once again overhangs the space. The lobby is approximately 3585 square feet and runs almost the 125' length of the first floor. It is approximately 30' wide and encompasses both a true lobby and a "casual seating area". The staircase creates study areas, gathering places, along with transport to the main building function, the buffet style cafeteria. Not only must one be able to see to move and interact, but reading, laptop work, and other student study functions will dominate the visual tasks. The first floor ceiling is 12' above finished floor on both the first and second floor above the stair. The grand staircase represents the buildings essence by trying to create an open study environment wherever the student feels comfortable.



Figure 2 Staircase Rendering courtesy of GWWO

Outdoor Roof Garden: Outdoor Space

As the building reaches the height where it spans over Emerson Drive, people are drawn out to one of the most unique spaces to the building. The outdoor roof garden is a place of relaxation and offers a nice study space for students. During the day it can be enjoyed under sunlight but at night, the lighting provided outdoors does not highlight the uniqueness of this spot. While a student may never sit out at night, organizations can hold small outdoor gatherings and can enjoy overlooking Towson University from this spot. Currently nothing special is being taken advantage of in this space. The hardscape stone transitions well to the indoor environment. The entire space is only 40' by 100', roughly. The building façade is very unique as the mullions and fritted glass create a texture unlikely seen anywhere else on campus. While visual tasks may be minimal and the only sufficient light needed to navigate the outdoor path may be called for, illuminating the building façade will give a sense of clouded transparency and disarray, contradicting most curtain walls. This element can add visual interest and a unique icon to the campus.



Figure 3 Northeast Corner of Building. Courtesy of GWWO



Figure 4 East Facade. Notice the unique mullion pattern. Rendering courtesy of GWWO.

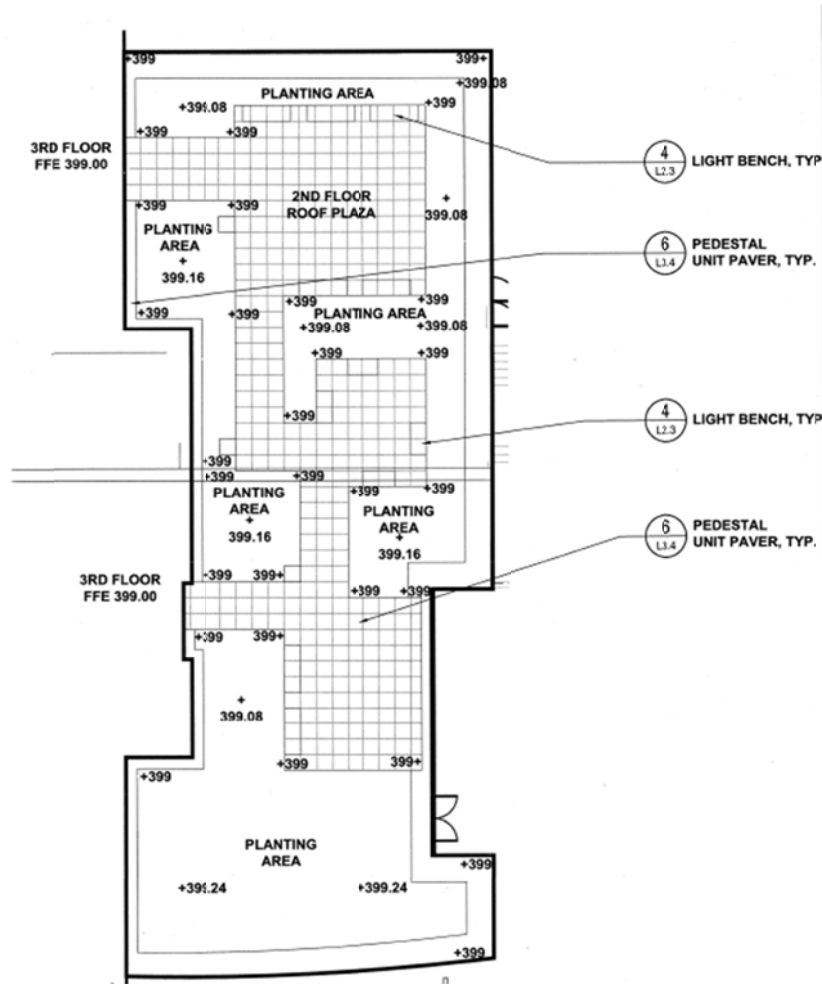


Figure 5 Hardscape Layout for Roof Garden

Study Lounge: Special Purpose Space 2

The study lounge is located on the North end of the building on the third and fourth floors, and provides excellent views into the quad. The lounge is a mixture of curtain wall transitioning to painted gypsum while the overall ceiling height sits 13'-4" above the finished fourth floor. The ceiling is also once again egg shell painted GWB. This large open glass peninsula offers an excellent opportunity to study the psychological effects of closure vs. spaciousness. While most of the glass is clear, fritted and translucent glass is mixed in to reduce glare and other sunlight effects. The current design scheme utilizes only downlights which do little to create any mood within the space. Spanning roughly 50' in width and 40' in length, this two story study lounge with its own grand staircase could be developed into a closely encountered space. Light and its interaction with the frit and translucent panels would also be studied. This could have a potentially large impact on the sensation. Figure 7 shows the overall transparency of the building at night.



Figure 6 Student Lounge. Rendering Courtesy of GWWO.



Figure 7 Student Lounge is on the top two floors. Rendering Courtesy of GWWO.