URBN CENTER & URBN CENTER ANNEX

Drexel University | **Philadelphia, PA**

Johnathan W. Cook | Lighting/Electrical

Project Team

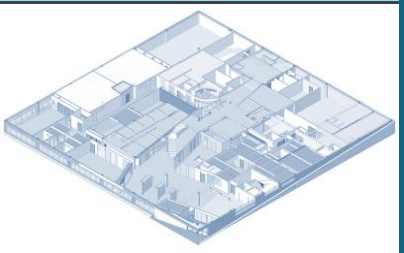
Architecture & Interior Design
Meyer Scherer, & Rockcastle, LTD

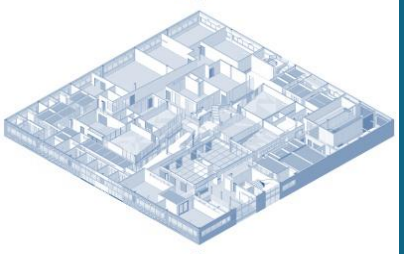
Construction Manager
Turner Construction

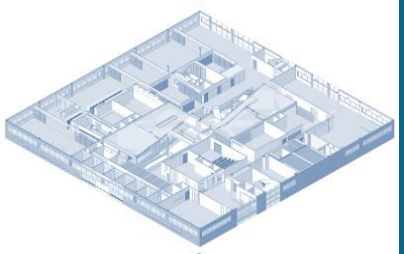
MEP Engineers
PHY Engineers, Inc.

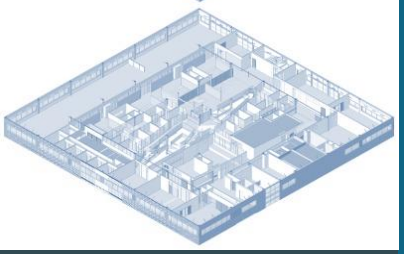
Lighting Designer
Gallina Design, LLC

Structural Engineer
O'Donnell & Naccarato









Building Statistics

Size	145,917 SF	Dates of Construction	Start: 10 | 17 | 2011
Levels	4 stories above grade		Finish: 10 | 12 | 2012
Cost	31 Million	Project Delivery Method	Lump Sum Bid

Architecture

The URBN Center & URBN Center Annex was originally designed by the Architects of Venturi, Scott Brown Associates. This four-story steel and concrete structure had been stripped to its bones and completely reconfigured internally while leaving the envelope nearly untouched. Furthermore the unique design of the façade has been preserved through its transformation. Exposed ceilings and concrete flooring inflict a modern architectural impression. The mechanical systems, electrical systems, and plumbing are all left bare, however still an overall pleasing aesthetic look has been achieved via an organized and carefully installed layout. Large open studios and classrooms dominate the building. Spaciousness is reinforced with the use of storefront partitions and a four-story atrium acting as the main highway for occupant transportation.

Lighting/Electrical

The lighting design/concept for the URBN Center & URBN Center Annex can be described in one word, "linear." Primarily linear fluorescent lighting is featured throughout the building creating strong rhythmic strokes of light. Highly efficient T5 fluorescent tubes are utilized in these fixtures generating low power densities and maintenance costs. 277/480 Volt systems serve lighting and HVAC loads, while 120/208 Volt systems are utilized to provide power to receptacles. Special needs include four dimming panels acquiring 600 Amps each. Emergency power is provided by a 500 kilowatt diesel generator.

Mechanical

The URBN Center makes use of chilled beams for its primary heating and cooling system. The chilled beams incorporate induction nozzles to transfer energy to and from the supply air. This type of system reduces the air velocities within the building, while reducing operating costs and the amount of duct work running through the URBN Center. The URBN Center Annex contrastingly uses a combination of air handling units, electrical heaters, and air conditioning units. The Black Box Theater in the Annex introduces a high cooling load within the dimmer room where the dimmer racks are located, which is treated with two separate dedicated air conditioners [(2) @ 810 CFM].

Structural

The existing steel frame and curtain walls were one of the few aspects of the original building preserved. Seven main structural gridlines running east-west and north-south with equivalent spans of 30 feet generate the basis of the steel frame. The structural challenge for this project was introducing an atrium spanning the length and height of the structure. The foundation consists of strip footings and column piers with 36" caissons and a 48" square cap. Existing slab on metal deck make up the floors.