Radiance Techniques for Rad Indoor Environments

Seif Eses – Atelier Ten

August 28th, 2024

Case Study 1: Enclosing a Courtyard

Introduction

Design Problem

Designing a skylight that encloses a multifunctional courtyard space – to be used by students.

Analysis Overview

- Assess visual comfort for occupants in the courtyard through direct sun and overshadowing studies
- 2. Assess feasibility of green wall through direct sun and daylight integral studies





Introduction

Methodology

- 1. Create a direct sun animation
- 2. Choose multiples points in the space to study overshadowing
- 3. Pinpoint times of the year with potential visual discomfort
- 4. Identify zones on skylight where shading is necessary



Courtyard Design



Animation

- Atelier Ten studied the direct sun condition in the courtyard on the 21st of every month
- The animation visualizes the direct sun throughout the year





Times of Concern

- > Times of concern:
 - 1. Morning to early afternoon hours of the summer
 - 2. Morning hours of the fall/spring
- The summer hours will cause extreme visual discomfort to occupants and will require intentional design of the skylight shading system





Annual Sun Exposure



ANNUAL SUN EXPOSURE [kWh/m²]

140	280	420	560	700	840	980	120	260	400	
H	2	4	വ	~	œ	0)	11	12	14	

- This annual sun exposure map shows a summary of the zones that are receiving higher levels of direct sun in the courtyard.
 - This will be useful for furniture layout design



Overshadowing

- Nine points across the courtyard and terrace space that potentially can be occupied were chosen
- Overshadowing diagrams were created from each of these points to understand which hours of the year are shaded by the current design and surrounding buildings
- Occupied hours assumed to be 8 AM to 6 PM



Courtyard Design



Overshadowing – Next to Stack



Area of Concern

Point 1

Direct sun from 9:30 AM to 1 PM (3.5 hrs - 35% of occupied hours) from April to August.



Overshadowing – Next to Stack

Area of Concern



Point 1

Direct sun from 9:30 AM to 1 PM (3.5 hrs – 35% of occupied hours) from April to August.

Point 2

Point 3

- Direct sun from 8:30 AM to 1 PM (4.5 hrs - 45% of occupied hours) from April to August.
 - Direct sun from 8:30 AM to 11 AM (2.5 hrs – 25% of occupied hours) during the summer months.



Direct Sun Study Overshadowing – Middle of Courtyard

Area of Concern



Point 4

Direct sun from 10 AM to 3 PM (5 hrs – 50% of occupied hours) from April to August.

Point 5

Direct sun from 9:30 AM to 2 PM (4.5 hrs – 45% of occupied hours) from April to August.

Point 6

 Direct sun from 10 AM to 11 AM (1 hrs - 10% of occupied hours) from May to July.



Overshadowing – Terrace

Area of Concern



Point 7

Receives no direct sun.

Point 8

 \blacktriangleright Direct sun from 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM (4 \blacktriangleright Direct sun from 12:30 PM to 4:40 PM (4 hrs – 40% of occupied hours) from May to July.

Point 9

hrs – 40% of occupied hours) from April to August.



Skylight Areas of Concern

- Given the overshadowing conditions, the analysis to the right shows which areas of the skylight are contributing to direct sun encroachment in the space.
- Atelier Ten developed a tool to create a map of which zones are causing the highest level of visual discomfort in the courtyard and potential thermal discomfort.
- The study shows that the SE corner of the façade requires some treatment to avoid visual discomfort. The depth of the glulam elements aid in shading areas of the critical zone.

Critical Glazing Zones for Shading



Outdoor Daily Light Integral (DLI)

DLI Introduction

Daily Light Integral (DLI) represents the total photosynthetically active radiation accumulated over one day (*mol/m²/day*) Instead of highlighting DLI for one day, the common application unit of DLI is a monthly average DLI. The monthly average DLI accounts for the variable sky conditions specific to each climate.

The maps at right show the monthly average outdoor DLI for March, June, September, and December*. This data from Clemson University accounts for typical sky radiation values measured between 1998-2012.



Monthly DLI for September

Monthly DLI for December



Plant DLI Requirements

Table 2. DLI Requirements for Various Greenhouse Crops



1=Requires ample water to perform well at high-light levels. 2=Requires cool or moderate temperatures to perform well at high-light levels. 3=Stock plants perform well under higher light levels than finished plants.

		Average Daily Light Integral (Moles/Day)														
Species							Gree	enhous	se							
	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	
Ferns (Pteris Adiantum)																
Maranta																
Phalaenopsis (orchid)																
Saintpaulia																
Spathiphyllum																
Forced hyacinth																
Forced narcissus																
Forced tulip																
Aglaonema																
Bromeliads																
Caladium													1	1	1	
Dieffenbachia																
Dracaena																
Nephrolepsis																
Streptocarpus																
Hosta													1	1	1	
Hedera (English ivy)																
Begonia (heimalis)																
Sinningia																
Schlumbergera									2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Cyclamen																
Exacum																
Heuchera																
Coleus (shade)																
Impatiens, New Guinea																
Iris, Dutch (cut flowers)																

- Guides like the one to left will help the landscape architect choose which plants to use in the green wall based on the indoor DLI incident on the surface.
 - Ferns is often used for the green wall



Green Wall Study

Daily Light Integral & Annual Sun Exposure Maps





Direct Sun Study – Green Wall

Skylight Shading

- Given the overshadowing conditions, it is useful to understand which areas of the skylight are contributing to direct sun onto the green wall.
- Atelier Ten developed a tool to create a map of which zones are critical for providing the green wall with direct sun. This aligns with the DLI, which reflects direct radiation.
- Based on this study, we recommend that the critical zones are left more open.

Critical Areas of Solar Encroachment

LEAST MOST

atelier ten







Courtyard Visual Comfort

Green Wall Direct Sun



Skylight Skylight Shading





What can we do? – Standard Strategies



Harvard Kennedy School of Government Pavilions Utilizing frit as glare control



Brickell City Centre

Using sun-screening blades or structural elements as shading



What can we do? – Dynamic Strategies



Principal 711 High Street Electrochromic Glass



Gardens by the Bay Dynamic shading



What can we do? – Other Materials



Aerogel

Solera

OKALUX





> Although uniform frit reduces the intensity of the bright spots in the field of view, it also reduces the overall brightness of the space.

80 40 20

10

Goal is to create a \triangleright balanced daylit scene, allowing light to enter where desired.

Baseline – No Frit atelier ten

All 20% Frit

All 40% Frit

All 60% Frit



Gradient 60-20% Frit Gradient 80-40% Frit

Partial 60% Frit

Using a gradient frit allows for intentional daylight control, blocking areas of concern and allowing more light elsewhere.

atelier ten

Baseline – No Frit

= VIEW POINT

Case Study 2: Museum Auditorium

Introduction

Design Problem

Maintaining open views out of the auditorium whilst providing shading for screen and projector visibility.

Analysis Overview

- 1. Assess shading options for fully glazed double-skin façade
- 2. Assess visibility of the screen and projector during times with high daylight exposure





Shading Option Analysis

Fixed Blinds 6' louvers with 3.6" spacing

Fabric Shades3% Medium Gray

Electrochromic Glass Tvis= 52%/31%/6%/1%

Dynamic Rotating Venetian Blinds 6' louvers with 4.8" spacing Can be deployed in 6 positions





Annual Solar Profile Angles

Southwest Facade

Occupied hours- 9am -5pm

) F	PROFILE A	NGLE / S	ECTION SC	LAR ENCE	ROACHME	NT ANGLE						
	WIN	TER			SPR	ING/SUM	MER			W	INTER/FA	LL
Standard Time	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC
7:00 AM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7:30 AM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8:00 AM	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	44
8:30 AM	56	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	56	41
9:00 AM	49	71	88	0	0	0	0	0	88	71	49	39
9:30 AM	45	63	79	0	0	0	0	0	79	63	45	37
10:00 AM	42	57	71	83	0	0	0	83	71	57	42	36
10:30 AM	39	52	65	77	85	87	85	77	65	52	39	34
11:00 AM	37	48	60	72	79	82	79	72	60	48	37	32
11:30 AM	34	45	56	67	75	78	75	67	56	45	34	30
12:00 PM	32	42	53	64	71	74	71	64	53	42	32	28
12:30 PM	30	39	49	60	68	71	68	60	49	39	30	26
1:00 PM	27	36	46	57	64	67	64	57	46	36	27	24
1:30 PM	25	33	43	54	61	65	61	54	43	33	25	21
2:00 PM	22	30	40	51	59	62	59	51	40	30	22	19
2:30 PM	19	27	37	48	56	60	56	48	37	27	19	16
3:00 PM	15	24	34	45	54	58	54	45	34	24	15	12
3:30 PM	12	20	30	42	52	56	52	42	30	20	12	9
4:00 PM	7	15	26	39	49	54	49	39	26	15	7	4
4:30 PM	2	10	21	35	47	52	47	35	21	10	2	0
5:00 PM	0	5	16	31	44	50	44	31	16	5	0	0
5:30 PM	0	0	9	26	41	48	41	26	9	0	0	0
6:00 PM	0	0	0	18	38	47	38	18	0	0	0	0
6:30 PM	0	0	0	7	32	45	32	7	0	0	0	0
7:00 PM	0	0	0	0	19	42	19	0	0	0	0	0

Fixed Blinds
Fabric Shades
Electrochromic Glass
Dynamic Venetian Blinds

24° solar cutoff angle



- Fixed blinds will not be effective in mitigating glare from 2 pm- 4 pm from December through January.
- Supplemental shading will be required for 15% of the year.
- Not recommended.

15% occupied hours

require interior supplemental shading



Annual Solar Profile Angles & Interior Shade Deployment

Southwest Facade

Occupied hours- 9am -5pm

	PROFILE A	ANGLE / S	ECTION SO	LAR ENCR	OACHME	NT ANGLE						
	WIN	ITER			SPR	ING/SUM	MER			W	INTER/FA	LL
Standard Time	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC
7:00 AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7:30 AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8:00 AN	1 74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	44
8:30 AN	56	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	56	41
9:00 AN	49	71	88	0	0	0	0	0	88	71	49	39
9:30 AN	45	63	79	0	0	0	0	0	79	63	45	37
10:00 AN	42	57	71	83	0	0	0	83	71	57	42	36
10:30 AN	39	52	65	77	85	87	85	77	65	52	39	34
11:00 AN	37	48	60	72	79	82	79	72	60	48	37	32
11:30 AN	34	45	56	67	75	78	75	67	56	45	34	30
12:00 PN	32	42	53	64	71	74	71	64	53	42	32	28
12:30 PN	30	39	49	60	68	71	68	60	49	39	30	26
1:00 PN	27	36	46	57	64	67	64	57	46	36	27	24
1:30 PN	25	33	43	54	61	65	61	54	43	33	25	21
2:00 PN	22	30	40	51	59	62	59	51	40	30	22	19
2:30 PN	19	27	37	48	56	60	56	48	37	27	19	16
3:00 PN	15	24	34	45	54	58	54	45	34	24	15	12
3:30 PN	12	20	30	42	52	56	52	42	30	20	12	9
4:00 PN	7	15	26	39	49	54	49	39	26	15	7	4
4:30 PN	2	10	21	35	47	52	47	35	21	10	2	0
5:00 PN	0	5	16	31	44	50	44	31	16	5	0	0
5:30 PN	0	0	9	26	41	48	41	26	9	0	0	0
6:00 PN	0	0	0	18	38	47	38	18	0	0	0	0
6:30 PN	0	0	0	7	32	45	32	7	0	0	0	0
7:00 PN	0	0	0	0	19	42	19	0	0	0	0	0
39% occu fully d	of pied hour closed	s	28% of occupie 75% cl	f ed hours osed	1 0 5	. 1% of ccupied h 0% close	iours d	13% occup 25% c	of ied hours losed		9% of or hours fully retr	ccupied acted



- Limited views access from 12 pm to 5 pm from March through Sept. & 10 am to 4 pm from Oct. to Feb.
- Not recommended.

Annual Solar Profile Angles & Dynamic Glass Tint States

Southwest Facade

Occupied hours- 9am -5pm

F	PROFILE A	ANGLE / S	ECTION SO	LAR ENCF	ROACHMEN	NT ANGLE						
	WIN	ITER		SPRING/SUMMER							INTER/FA	LL
Standard Time	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
7:00 AM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7:30 AM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8:00 AM	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	44
8:30 AM	56	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	56	41
9:00 AM	49	71	88	0	0	0	0	0	88	71	49	39
9:30 AM	45	63	79	0	0	0	0	0	79	63	45	37
10:00 AM	42	57	71	83	0	0	0	83	71	57	42	36
10:30 AM	39	52	65	77	85	87	85	77	65	52	39	34
11:00 AM	37	48	60	72	79	82	79	72	60	48	37	32
11:30 AM	34	45	56	67	75	78	75	67	56	45	34	30
12:00 PM	32	42	53	64	71	74	71	64	53	42	32	28
12:30 PM	30	39	49	60	68	71	68	60	49	39	30	26
1:00 PM	27	36	46	57	64	67	64	57	46	36	27	24
1:30 PM	25	33	43	54	61	65	61	54	43	33	25	21
2:00 PM	22	30	40	51	59	62	59	51	40	30	22	19
2:30 PM	19	27	37	48	56	60	56	48	37	27	19	16
3:00 PM	15	24	34	45	54	58	54	45	34	24	15	12
3:30 PM	12	20	30	42	52	56	52	42	30	20	12	9
4:00 PM	7	15	26	39	49	54	49	39	26	15	7	4
4:30 PM	2	10	21	35	47	52	47	35	21	10	2	0
5:00 PM	0	5	16	31	44	50	44	31	16	5	0	0
5:30 PM	0	0	9	26	41	48	41	26	9	0	0	0
6:00 PM	0	0	0	18	38	47	38	18	0	0	0	0
6:30 PM	0	0	0	7	32	45	32	7	0	0	0	0
7:00 PM	0	0	0	0	19	42	19	0	0	0	0	0



Electrochromic Glass Tint States



* Tint 3 (Tvis= 6%, SHGC=0.12) will not be sufficient for glare control.

- Occupants will have obstructed or no views for over 90% of the year when the glass is fully or partially tinted.
- Not recommended

78% of occupied hours Tint 4 **13%** of occupied hours Tint 2

atelier ten

8% of occupied hours clear glass

Annual Solar Profile Angles & Blind Deployment Positions

Southwest Facade

Occupied hours- 9am -5pm



June 21, 9 am clear sky- with Dynamic Blinds (6" louvers with 4.8" spacing)

Optimum Daylight	
Views	$\bullet \bullet \circ \circ \circ$
Screen Visibility	$\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$
Color Rendering	

Dynamic blinds effectively control daylight without any color distortion, while ensuring screen visibility and access to views.







October 21, 12pm clear sky- with Dynamic Blinds (6" louvers with 4.8" spacing)

Daylight	
Views	$\bullet \bullet \circ \circ \circ$
Screen Visibility	$\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$
Color Rendering	$\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$

Dynamic blinds **effectively control daylight without any color distortion, while ensuring screen visibility and maintaining some access to views.**







December 21, 1.30pm clear sky- with Dynamic Blinds

Optimum Daylight	
Views	$\bullet \bullet \circ \circ \circ$
Screen Visibility	$\bigcirc \bigcirc $
Color Rendering	

Dynamic blinds **effectively control daylight without any color distortion, while ensuring screen visibility and access to views** and are recommended for the Forum Theater.







Overcast sky- with Dynamic Blinds (6" louvers with 4.8" spacing)

Optimum Daylight	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Views					
Screen Visibility	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Color Rendering	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc







Summary Dec 21, 1.30pm Clear Sky Conditions

Dynamic blinds effectively control daylight without any color distortion, while ensuring screen visibility and access to views.

> **Dynamic Venetian Blinds** 6' louvers with 4.8" spacing



Fixed Blinds	
6' louvers with 3.6" spacing	



0 0 0 0 0

 $\bullet \bullet \circ \circ \circ$

Fabric Shades 3% Medium Gray

 $\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$



Electrochromic Glass

Tvis= 52%/31%/6%/1%

atelier ten

Optimum Daylight

Screen Visibility

Color Rendering

Views

Goal of Analysis

The goal of the study is to help understand **the visibility of projected media onto a Marley mat during the daytime**, as well as to guide the team in selecting a projector with the necessary brightness to alleviate visibility concerns.

Methodology

- Test a 10 m² Marley Mat (Black and Grey) in the analysis area shown. This was chosen to evaluate a realistic location with high ambient light due to its proximity to the façade.
- 2. Create visualizations during midday at the open DSF condition, placing both the glazing and projection in view to evaluate the "worst" visibility risk condition.
 - This is because visibility does not only depend on light levels at the projection surface, but also the contrast of brightness within the field of view.





Visibility Parameter

Effective viewing of projected images on the Marley mat requires high contrast between the display screen and adjacent surfaces, with the brighter surface being the projection. The analysis studies relative luminance of the display mat and its surrounding surfaces under a high level of daylight.

EXAMPLE:

Poor Screen Visibility! The screen is competing with the brightness from the window. We want to avoid this scenario.





Projection Assumptions

- 1. Atelier Ten used Radiance to generate the projector brightness in the Forum Theater.
- 2. The Projector has a brightness rated at 22,500 lumens.
- 3. The study assumes a reflectance of 0.35 for the grey Marley mat and 0.05 for the black Marley mat
- 4. The brightness of the projection was calculated based on the reflectance of the mat, projector lumens, and apex angle of projector based on the assumption below:
 - Height of projector above mat: 20 ft
 - Apex Angle: 75°

CHRISTIE HS SERIES 4K13-HS / 4K22-HS

Hospitality | Large venues | Live events | Meeting rooms and boardrooms Museums | Places of worship | Rontal and staging | Theme parks and attractions

Impressive visuals. Impressive value.

When you're looking to stand out from the crowd, there's a bright choice available in 4K UHD projection with options for 14,800 and 22,300 lumens in the Christie' 4K13-H5 and 4K22-H5 IDLP fave projectors.

As our PS Series continues to push the brightness and image quality of 10LP laser projection close to the quality of 30LP. these projectors give audiences deeper blacts and enhanced color performance for more natural and tradition on create visuals with our BoldColor ** technology. With obleased Christie Teels? everyong and Mending, it's pick and every to tert up and align multi-projector displays, while our optional Methods. Automated carevra based alignment individual projection automated carevra based alignment multi-projection automatem in minutes. When combined with the Christia Intelligent Carevra, the projector's can trappe automate intelligent carevra, the projector's can trappe automatem.

And as if that wan't enough, both models come with a 5-year warranty and support active and passive potented 3D right out of the took.





April 21, 12 PM – Grey Marley Mat – 22,500 Lumens Projector



Projection Visibility O O O O





Projection on grey Marley mat has slight compromised visibility during high levels of ambient daylight.

The lack of visibility is mainly due to the lack of contrast in luminance between the projected image and the floor surrounding. The ratio in luminance from image to floor is ~2:1, which is insufficient for optimal visibility.



April 21, 12 PM – Black Marley Mat - 22,500 Lumens Projector



Projection Visibility \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc





Projection on black Marley mat has total compromised visibility during high levels of ambient daylight.

The lack of visibility is mainly due to low reflectance of the black Marley mat. The higher the reflectance, the higher the brightness of the projected image.



Factors Influencing Projection Visibility:

- 1. Reflectance of Marley Mat
 - The higher the reflectance of the mat, the greater the brightness of the projected image
- 2. Projector Brightness
 - Higher Lumen projectors (40,000 Lumens indicated to the right vs. 22,500 Lumens previously shown) will increase the visibility of the projected image by increasing the brightness of the image and the contrast with the surrounding floor
- 3. Ambient Light Level at Floor
 - The lower the ambient light level at the floor, the higher the contrast between the projected image and the floor, improving visibility
- 4. Location of the Marley Mat
 - The study evaluated the "worst" case condition for Marley mat placement in center stage. Positioning the mats further away from the facades will help improve visibility due to lower ambient light levels



Factors Influencing Projection Visibility:

- 1. Reflectance of Marley Mat
 - The higher the reflectance of the mat, the greater the brightness of the projected image
- 2. Projector Brightness
 - Higher Lumen projectors (40,000 Lumens indicated to the right vs. 22,500 Lumens previously shown) will increase the visibility of the projected image by increasing the brightness of the image and the contrast with the surrounding floor
- 3. Ambient Light Level at Floor
 - The lower the ambient light level at the floor, the higher the contrast between the projected image and the floor, improving visibility
- 4. Location of the Marley Mat
 - The study evaluated the "worst" case condition for Marley mat placement in center stage. Positioning the mats further away from the facades will help improve visibility due to lower ambient light levels

Grey Mat - 0.35 Reflectance



Black Mat - 0.05 Reflectance





Factors Influencing Projection Visibility:

- 1. Reflectance of Marley Mat
 - The higher the reflectance of the mat, the greater the brightness of the projected image
- 2. Projector Brightness
 - Higher Lumen projectors (40,000 Lumens indicated to the right vs. 22,500 Lumens previously shown) will increase the visibility of the projected image by increasing the brightness of the image and the contrast with the surrounding floor
- 3. Ambient Light Level at Floor
 - The lower the ambient light level at the floor, the higher the contrast between the projected image and the floor, improving visibility
- 4. Location of the Marley Mat
 - The study evaluated the "worst" case condition for Marley mat placement in center stage. Positioning the mats further away from the facades will help improve visibility due to lower ambient light levels

Alternate Projector - 40,000 Lumens

Grey Mat – 0.35 Reflectance





Factors Influencing Projection Visibility:

- **Reflectance of Marley Mat** 1.
 - The higher the reflectance of the mat, the greater the brightness of the projected image
- **Projector Brightness** 2.
 - Higher Lumen projectors (40,000 Lumens indicated to the right vs. 22,500 Lumens previously shown) will increase the visibility of the projected image by increasing the brightness of the image and the contrast with the surrounding floor
- Ambient Light Level at Floor 3.
 - The lower the ambient light level at the floor, the higher the contrast between the projected image and the floor, improving visibility
- Location of the Marley Mat 4.
 - The study evaluated the "worst" case condition for Marley • mat placement in center stage. Positioning the mats further away from the facades will help improve visibility due to lower ambient light levels

Luminance Ratio – 2:1 10,000 175 cd/m 375 cd/m² Luminance Ratio - 4.5:1

 cd/m^2

4500

2000

900

400

175

75

35

15

5

0





Factors Influencing Projection Visibility:

- 1. Reflectance of Marley Mat
 - The higher the reflectance of the mat, the greater the brightness of the projected image
- 2. Projector Brightness
 - Higher Lumen projectors (40,000 Lumens indicated to the right vs. 22,500 Lumens previously shown) will increase the visibility of the projected image by increasing the brightness of the image and the contrast with the surrounding floor
- 3. Ambient Light Level at Floor
 - The lower the ambient light level at the floor, the higher the contrast between the projected image and the floor, improving visibility
- 4. Location of the Marley Mat
 - The study evaluated the "worst" case condition for Marley mat placement in center stage. Positioning the mats further away from the facades will help improve visibility due to lower ambient light levels





Case Study 3: Theater

Introduction

Design Problem

Potential visual strain when transitioning from a bright lobby to a dark theater space (and vice versa).

Analysis Overview

Assess visual discomfort as an occupant's eye adapts to the change in daylight level when walking between the main exterior entrance and the pre-theater lobby vestibule space.





Entrance to Pre-Theater Lobby Transition

Adjusting from Bright to Dark



Pre-Theater Lobby



atelier ten

Bright to Dark Visual Adaptation – No Eye Adaption

Summer Equinox, 4:00pm, Clear Sunny Sky



Key Findings

These visualizations represent how the spaces are experienced without accounting for the user's eye adapting when transitioning from View 01 to View 04.

Visual discomfort can still occur without studying this adaptation. However, the more detailed transition study on the next slide represents how the user experiences these spaces most frequently.



10000

40 20 10

Bright to Dark Visual Adaptation – w/ Eye Adaption

Summer Equinox, 4:00pm, Clear Sunny Sky



Overview

The pupil will gradually adjust to adapt to the brightest object in a field of view. In some scenes, areas may appear dim if the eye focuses on the sky or a bright wall. In others, they can be perceptually very dark if the contrast is extreme.

Key Findings

The vestibule seems darker due to the contrast between the surrounding daylit walls and the dark vestibule walls. The dark stair bottom creates more visual contrast as the user approaches the vestibule, delaying when the eye can adjust. Once in front of the vestibule (View 03), the user can slowly adapt to the darker space.



Bright to Dark Visual Adaptation – w/ Eye Adaption

Summer Equinox, 4:00pm, Clear Sunny Sky

Stair Bottom Recommendation:

A brighter or luminous stair bottom would reduce the contrast between vertical surfaces and create a more comfortable eye adaptation. We recommend a finish with a Light Reflectance Value (LRV) of 50-60 for the stair bottom.



Vestibule Space Recommendations:

Brighter vertical surfaces in the vestibule reduce the contrast with the surrounding walls, helping the user adjust to the darker space faster. We recommend a finish with an LRV of 70-80 for the vestibule surfaces.

Chamfering the edges of the vestibule entrance creates light gradient edges, brightening the space (See diagrams below).





cd/m²

Pre-Theater Lobby to Entrance Transition

Adjusting from Dark to Bright



Pre-Theater Lobby



atelier ten

Dark to Bright Visual Adaptation - No Eye Adaption

Summer Equinox, 4:00pm, Clear Sunny Sky



atelier ten

Dark to Bright Visual Adaptation – w/Eye Adaption

Summer Equinox, 4:00pm, Clear Sunny Sky

10000

79

40

20 10

atelier ten



Overview

As an occupant's gaze focuses on more local dim objects to set pupillary adaptation, bright objects within the field of view can become uncomfortable or intolerable.

Key Findings

Transitioning from the vestibule to the building entrance, there is significant visual discomfort due to glare from the bright glazing compared to the dark vestibule walls and stair bottom. This stark contrast elongates the time needed for the eye to adapt to the brighter space.

Dark to Bright Visual Adaptation – w/Eye Adaption

Summer Equinox, 4:00pm, Clear Sunny Sky

Vestibule Recommendation:

 Brighter vestibule vertical surfaces would reduce the contrast between the vertical surfaces in the field of view, allowing for more comfortable visual adaptation. We recommend a finish with a Light Reflectance Value (LRV) of 70-80 for the vestibule surfaces.



Stair Bottom Recommendation:

 A brighter or luminous stair bottom would reduce the contrast between the stairs and the bright façade glazing, lessening visual discomfort. We recommend a finish with an LRV of 50-60 for the stair bottom.



Questions?













atelier ten

East Coast

NEW YORK

104 W 29th St #8th, New York NY 10001 T +1 (212) 254 4500

NEW HAVEN

798 Chapel St, New Haven CT 06510 T +1 (203) 777 1400

SAN FRANCISCO 25 Kearny St, San Francisco CA 94108 T +1 (415) 351 2100

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN CONSULTANTS + LIGHTING DESIGNERS atelierten.com