



Color Comes to Campus

The recently completed Nobel Halls at SUNY Stony Brook in Stony Brook, NY, give new meaning to the term "school colors." Amidst an architectural landscape of collegiate brick buildings, the new multi-building complex offers several pops of color.

"Architecturally, its colors make it stand out from the other residential halls. Everything is very open, there's a lot of glass and it's very contemporary looking," says Faith Baum, principal, Illumination Arts, Bloomfield, NJ, which designed the interior lighting for

the 600-bed residential hall and attached commons building, as well as outdoor site lighting in conjunction with the project architect, Goshow Architects, New York City.

Because of the complex's bold architectural statement, "we took a fairly streamlined approach to the lighting," says Baum. "There's not a lot of fat, not only in terms of energy, but in terms of fixtures. We solved the architectural, visual and aesthetic tasks, but there isn't a lot of decorative detail. Given the architecture, it would not have been appropriate."

The simplicity of the end product, however, belies the difficulty of the actual design. By the time the firm joined the project, the architectural design was nearly completed, and Baum was tasked with finding lighting solutions that fit the existing plan and also met the project's LEED Gold-certification goal. "The biggest challenge was that there was a very low floor-to-floor height and shallow plenum depths throughout the complex, and the ceilings in the residence hall building were unfinished. That presented a real challenge to figure out how we could light the suites without putting anything on the ceiling," she notes.

The unfinished ceiling in the residence hall suites prohibited the use of ceiling-mounted or recessed fixtures, so Baum selected wall-mounted CFL sconces to illuminate common areas. "Because of the type of facility it is and how hard college students tend to be on a building, we used exterior fixtures in the interior that had an interesting shape. What we ended up with was a more interesting design than had we used a surface-mounted or recessed fixture," says Baum.

Unfinished ceilings were also a challenge in the commons building, which includes a 350-seat meeting room that is divided into four separate rooms—three rooms have unfinished ceilings and one has a finished ceiling. Baum used lensed, linear, single-lamp pendant fixtures in the former three rooms and a recessed version of the same fixture in the latter room. Outside of the meeting rooms, red-painted lounge areas are visible through partially frosted large glass windows. Linear fluorescent wall washers make the frosted glass appear to glow, while sconces add vertical illuminance to the red walls and fluorescent pendants provide ambient lighting over the seating areas.



—Elizabeth Hall