



Raleigh Section

2024 Illumination Awards



2024 Illumination Award



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Murray-Massenburg Elementary School

Nikki-Nicole Miles | Glimmer & Glow, LLC

The new Murray-Massenburg Elementary School presented a unique opportunity to design beyond 21st century learning while rethinking traditional educational lighting design models. Lighting shaped the learning environment by catering to students' physiological and psychological needs. Interior lighting approach for 3-stories of program spaces totaling 130,000 SF serving 800 students warranted creating an illuminated experience supporting collaborative environments, adaptability, and enhanced moments of critical thinking. Goal: Illuminated spaces for diverse learners to thrive in a rapidly evolving technological world and become a new school district design standard.

Exploring how learners engage in modern contexts to experience higher levels of alertness and better academic performance led the Lighting Designer to integrate energy saving 4000K 90CRI LED lamps fostering focus during tasks requiring concentration, 0-10V dimmable options to offer user flexibility, and decorative luminaires. Incorporating high efficacy performing luminaires helped reduce environmental impacts. Adhering to uniform illumination throughout, learning areas are adequately lit, supporting inclusivity by providing equal visibility for all students.

Challenges in balancing these priorities required future-proofing lighting solutions: modular layouts, a cohesive yet timeless form factor, and minimal fixture types. Another challenge: harmonizing modern materials with recessed luminaires to enhance aesthetics with complex budget constraints. Recessed slots of light and pendants are used to avoid visual fatigue with a shift in the fixture aesthetic from corridors and common spaces.

By blending natural and artificial light thoughtfully, educators were equipped to cultivate an atmosphere where students succeed academically and emotionally.

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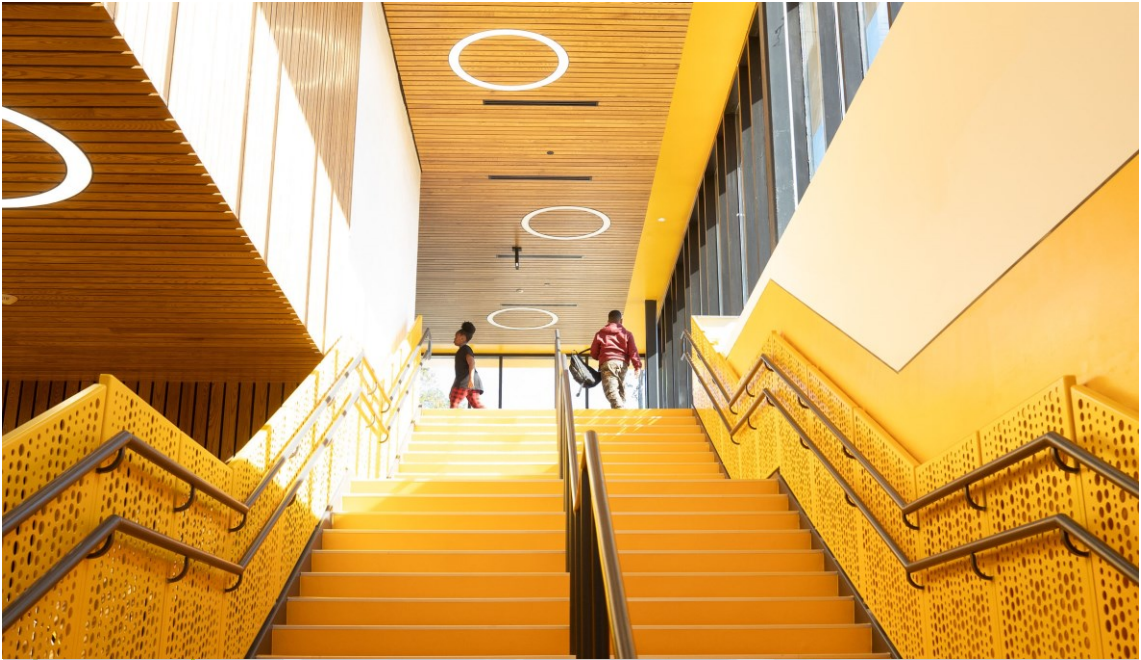
Entry Lobby: Focusing on a single horizontal task plane was inadequate for this modern learning environment. Fixtures strategically placed to eliminate glare and shadows while still meeting target illuminance.

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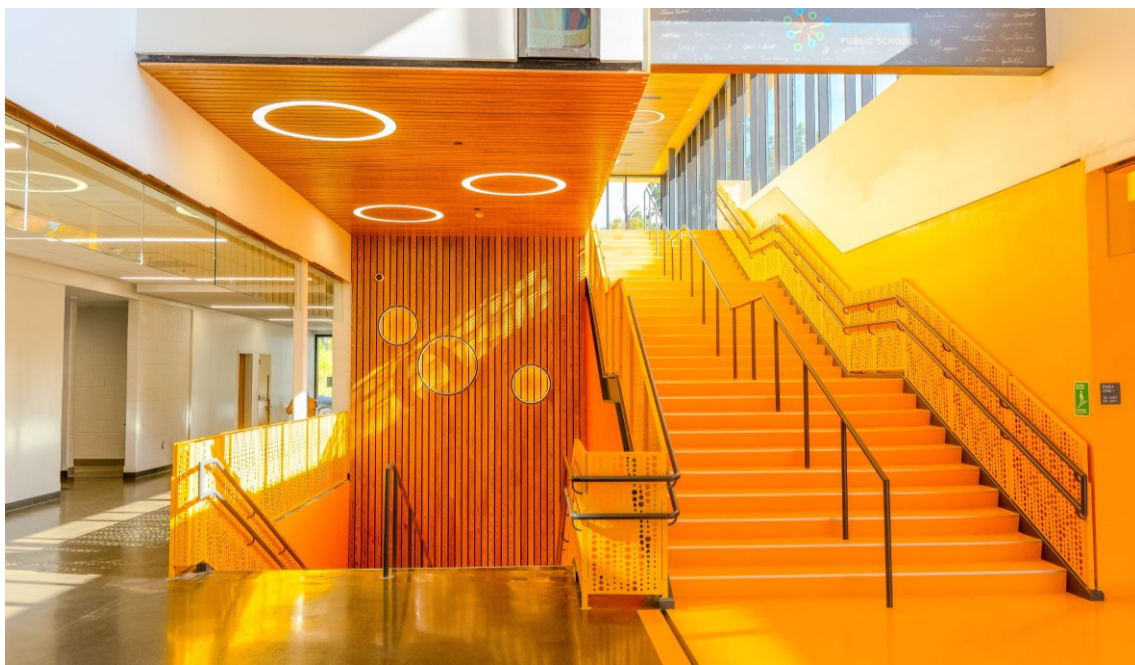
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Luminaires at grand stairway directly illuminate ceilings and walls utilizing reflected light into the space.

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Media Center: Semi-direct light emission with suspended luminaires increase uniformity on the ceiling and work surfaces, creating flexible environment for any instructional orientation or furniture layout.

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Bold, colorful accent lighting make common spaces more inviting. Lighting balances functionality and showcases playful illuminated methodologies with asymmetrically tilted fixtures for a sense of comfort and inspiration.

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Small scale decorative pendants create a quiet moment for reflection or community when passing through the main corridor.

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Circular thin-profile pendants with indirect-direct distribution emphasize height and spirited drama while complimenting relevant graphics in the two-story vestibule.

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Congratulations!

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