

CASE STUDY: BILLY WILDER THEATER



imagine the possibilities

Billy Wilder Theater

At the heart of the Hammer Museum near UCLA, the newly completed Billy Wilder Theater is a tribute to the history of cinematography and is named after one of the most gifted filmmakers of the 20th century.

Michael Maltzan Architecture and Lam Partners Inc. Lighting Design collaborated on the vision for the Billy Wilder Theater. When asked about the inspiration for the theater, lighting designer, Paul A. Zaferiou, IALD, RA explained, "The radiating strips of white light represent the energy and spirit of film, frozen in the air of the theater."

Initially, Maltzan was contemplating using lines of glass neon as ambient light to symbolize rays of light emitting from the projector. Lam suggested using LED lighting for its continuous light, low voltage nature and easy dimmability.

Lam wanted the smallest, most elegant linear LED lighting solution, and the Plexineon White 1X Series fit the bill. The ease in which the Plexineon fixtures could be installed and the low voltage wiring made the product even more appealing.

Mounted to mini-unistruts set off the wall and ceiling, the White 1X Series appears as if it were floating in time and space. Lam used a combination of Plexineon lengths to make randomized lighting runs which were each controlled using a Lutron dimming system.

This innovative use of light creates an environment that is unexpected, surprising, and captures the core meaning of cinema. Lam Partners was honored with an award of merit at the 26th annual IALD International Lighting Design Awards for its lighting design of the Billy Wilder Theater.

- Site: Los Angeles, CA
- Location: Interior application
- Project: Theater
- Color: Plexineon White 1X Series 3500°K
- Product use: Direct view
- Length: 888 LF (271m)
- Designer: Lam Partners Inc. Lighting Design
- Photograph: Michael Maltzan Architecture
- Representative: Omni Lite & Prudential Lighting