

CASE STUDY: EASTFIELD COLLEGE LEARNING CENTER



imagine the possibilities

Eastfield College Learning Center

Welcome to modern learning, where retail and educational worlds merge, creating a new and stimulating learning experience. Opening in February of 2009, the new Eastfield College Learning Center successfully challenged the conventional definition of a classroom and school with its new non-traditional, retail-like environment.

HKS, Inc., known for its remarkable venue design, was brought in to build a space that physically expressed this educational paradigm shift. One of the design goals was to provide and support spontaneous interaction among the faculty and students beyond the traditional classroom.

HKS created “studios” or classrooms of various sizes and shapes to provide greater flexibility for class size. Outside the studios, HKS designed the hallways as “pathways” and created geometrical spaces that were decorated with couches and tables, encouraging interaction beyond the classroom.

The entry points to the pathways were viewed as human intersections. HKS wanted to create an energetic atmosphere in these rotunda areas. To design that type of dynamic ambience, HKS moved away from traditional lighting sources like strip fluorescent -- reminiscent of the old industrial look and teaching style -- to unique and creative fixtures like iLight’s LED linear lighting fixtures. To further emulate the sensation of energy, the modern iLight LED fixtures were mounted exposed, arranged in a random lightning bolt pattern on the ceiling.

Project designer, Dan Arrowood of HKS, selected iLight’s Plexineon White Series for the rotunda areas because it was a creative new way to accomplish their accent lighting goals. Arrowood said, “Plexineon offered a unique and elegant fixture in a small profile that fit our light output needs.” The end result is a high energy space geared for future generations of learning.

- Site: Dallas, TX
- Location: Interior application
- Project: Education
- Color: Plexineon White 2X Series 4500°K
- Product use: Direct view
- Length: 194 LF (59m)
- Designer: HKS, Inc.
- Photograph: Coutura Photography