



A CLOSER LOOK: Wells Fargo Center

backlit stone lobby wall + columns

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overview

Wells Fargo Center Norfolk, VA

architect: Davis Carter Scott
lighting design: MCLA
developer: S.L. Nusbaum Realty Co.
general contractor: Clancy & Theys Construction Co.
specialty contractor: GPI Design

The Wells Fargo Center in Norfolk, Virginia, designed by Davis Carter Scott, redefines Norfolk's town center.

Developers broke ground in 2008 on the \$170.9 million, certified LEED Silver Certified mixed-use development formerly called the Wachovia Center. The Wells Fargo Center adds about 258,000 square feet of office space and 14,000 square feet of retail space to the downtown market.

With upscale stone finishes, rich wood wall panels, and classic lighting fixtures, the lobby of the office tower establishes the luxurious mood of the property.

A backlit onyx reception wall and four columns punctuate this high-end atmosphere in the lobby of the office tower. GPI Design was commissioned to design, engineer, fabricate, and install these bespoke backlit stone features.

overview

design concept

For these custom backlit onyx walls and columns, the design concept and architectural renderings express uniformly glowing surfaces. Hardware and fasteners are concealed, contributing to the modern aesthetic of the lobby space.

The product technology of DURA-Lite™ Glass-Backed Natural Stone and Infuse™ LED Backlighting System with GPI's in-house structural engineering process made possible the large panel sizes of both stone and light that preserved the intent shown in the rendering.



rendering
by Davis Carter Scott

development process

material concept

The orange Mercury Onyx stone used in the backlit walls and columns has an estimated age of over 1 million years (by geophysicists' estimation) – and is a form of quartz. The veining, or patterns of movement you see in the stone is actually microcrystalline deposits of lead, magnesium, iron, gold and other minerals found in the earth's crust – combined with magma, gas, heat, pressure over a period spanning millenia.

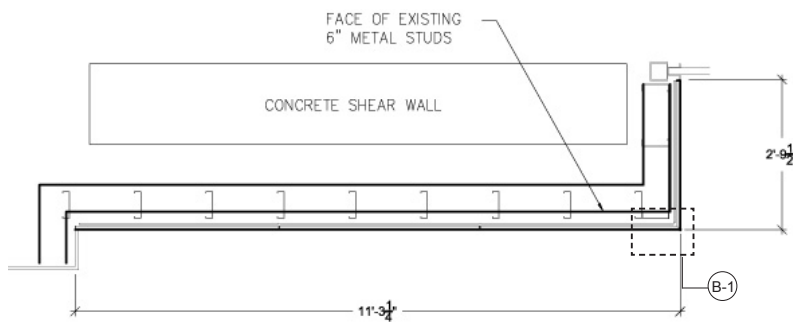
The designers chose an exotic Mercury Onyx for its rich coloration and depth, rendered in even more drama when backlit. By laminating the exotic Mercury Onyx to glass backing, GPI was able to obtain maximum light transmission out of this saturated stone and safely create the large panels found at the reception wall.



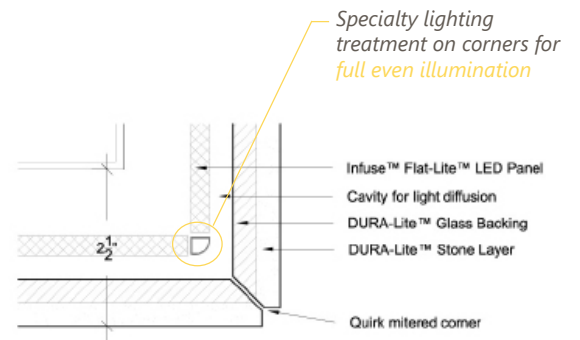


structure

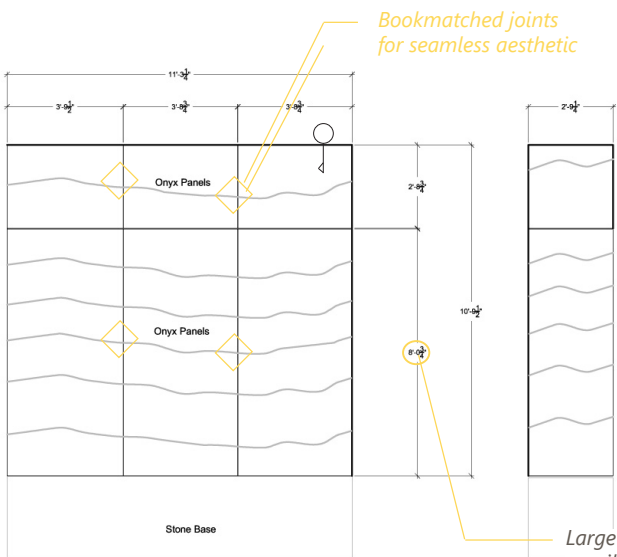
reception wall



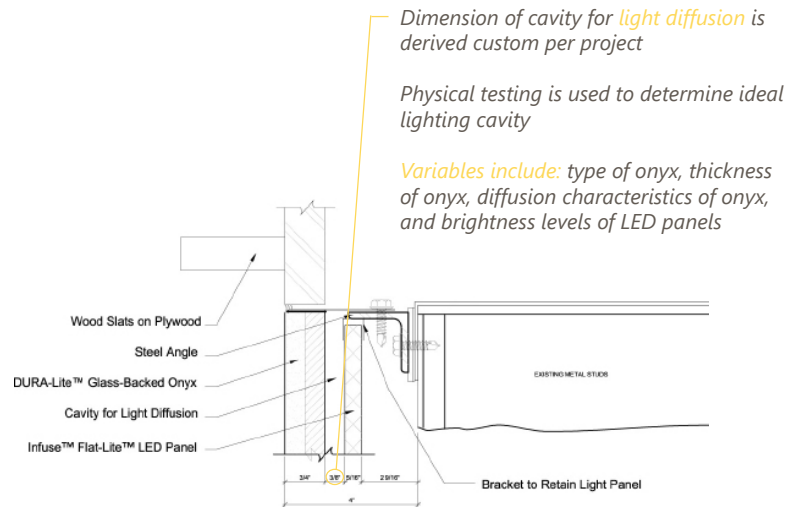
PLAN OF BACKLIT ONYX WALL AT RECEPTION DESK



PLAN DETAIL B-1



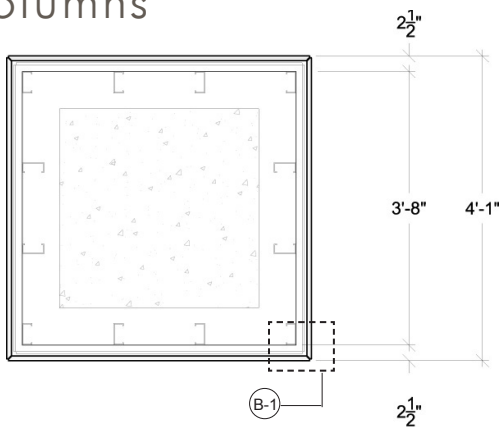
ELEVATION OF BACKLIT ONYX WALL AT RECEPTION DESK



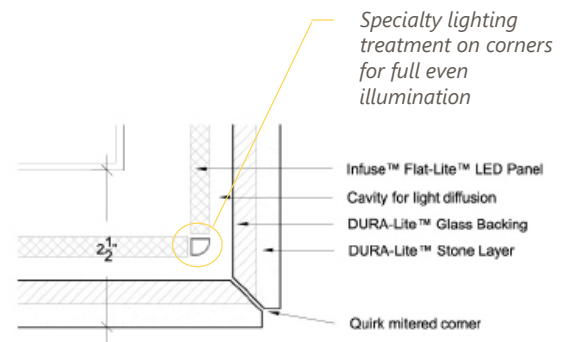
SECTION A-1



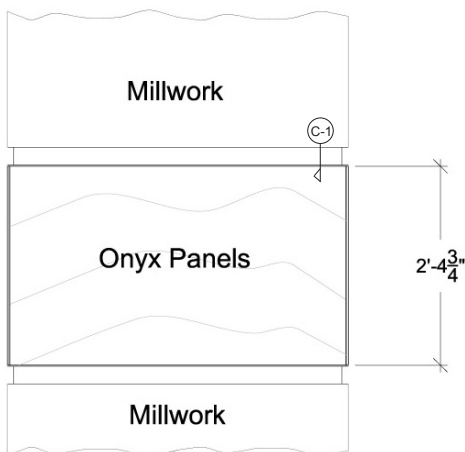
structure columns



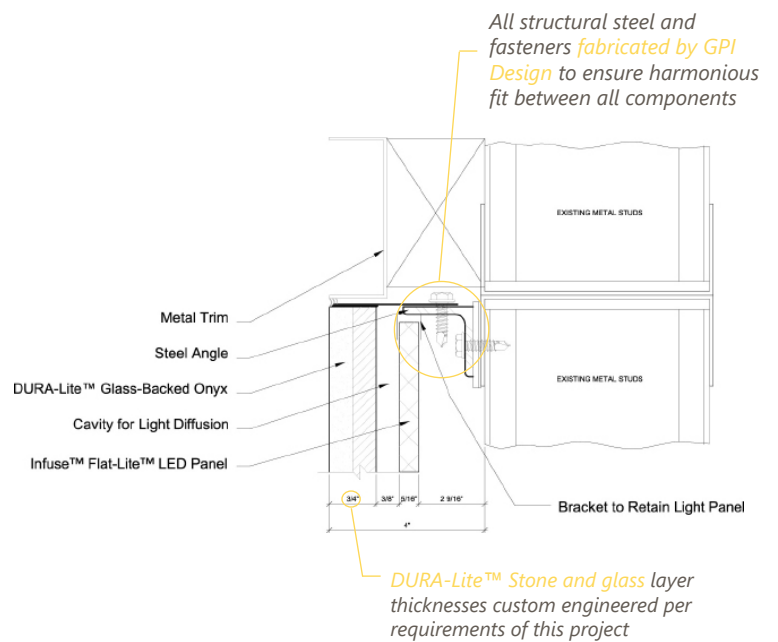
PLAN OF BACKLIT ONYX
AT COLUMNS (TYP. OF 4)



PLAN DETAIL B-1



ELEVATION OF BACKLIT ONYX
AT COLUMNS



SECTION C-1

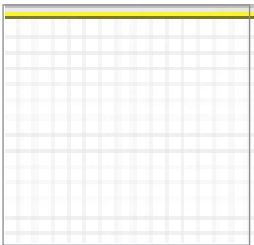
lighting fixtures

Infuse™ Complete LED Backlighting System

system advantage:

- + illuminate large onyx panels with even light distribution in approximately 2" space to throw light
- + dimming control to balance brightness between large and small panels

GPI excels at providing in-house engineering to avoid hot spots, shadows, and unequal light balance between large and small panels by combining filters, diffusers, dimming control and supplemental lighting elements.



Infuse™ Flat-Lite™ Custom LED Panels

- large panel sizes
- situated directly to back of onyx panels for even illumination
- lifespan of over 50,000 hours/maintenance-free
- elimination of shadows/bulky fixture hardware



Infuse™ Custom Power Supplies/Dimming Packs

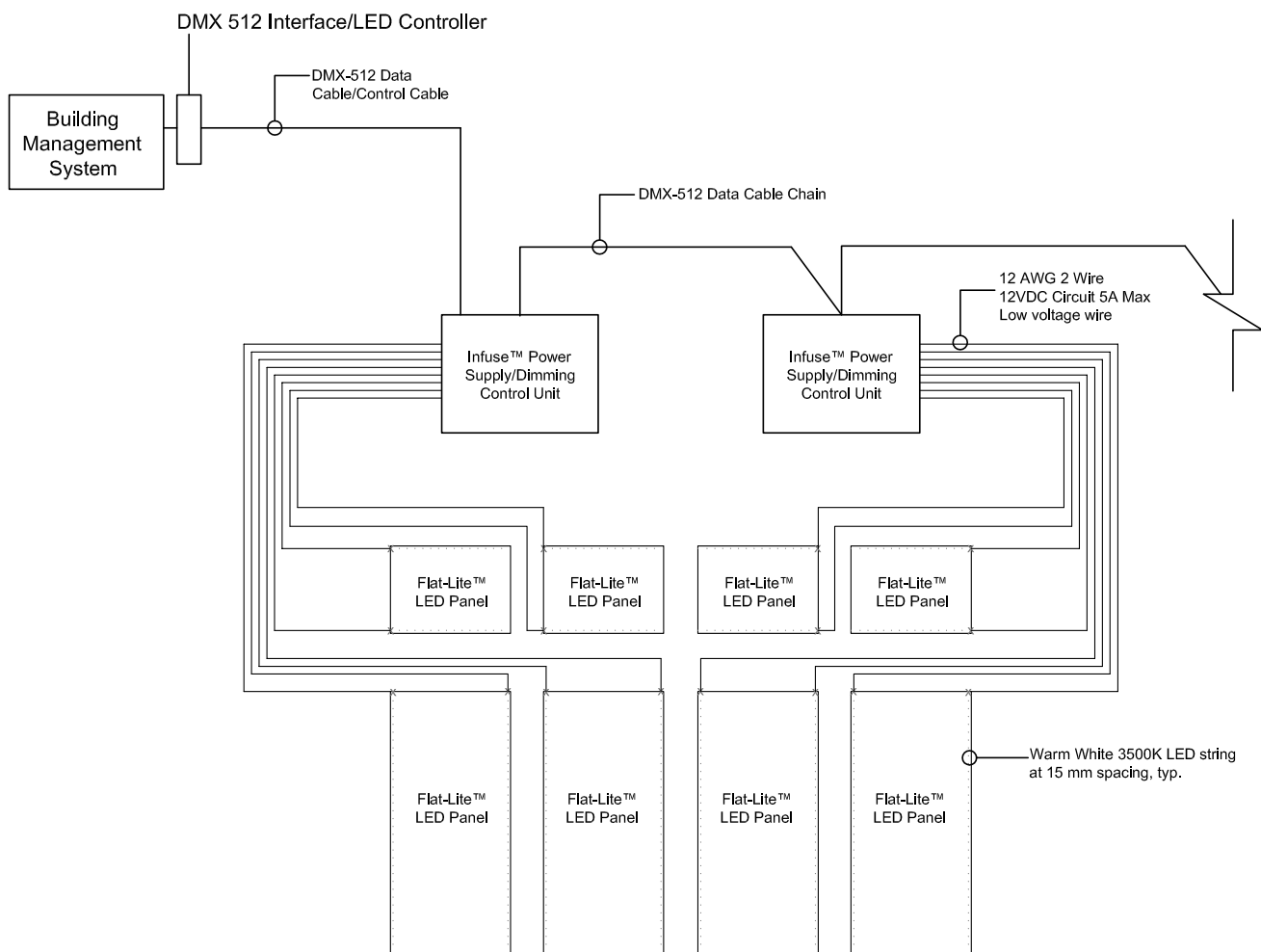
- balance light levels between large and small LED panels
- linked to Lutron GRAFIK system via DMX 512 cable for complete control

lighting

wiring + control

GPI engineered the backlighting system to properly distribute power to each individual LED string. The below schematic represents the system engineering at the reception wall. The LED backlighting system was linked to the Lutron GRAFIK system for automated programmed control.

GPI coordinated with the electrical engineers and central lighting control system manufacturer (Lutron) to execute the controls. GPI's installation services included on-site wiring and programming of the Infuse™ Power Supply/Dimming Control Units.



installation details



the result

finished photos



- + Classic and bold design statement
- + Backlit onyx panels with natural surface depth and unique character
- + Evenly illuminated translucent onyx panels at large sizes with no distracting structural shadows or visible hardware
- + Controllable LED backlighting linked to Lutron system
- + Turnkey installation by GPI specialty team to ensure quality control



The GPI Design team is deeply grateful to the teams at Davis Carter Scott Design and CLancy & Theys Const. Co. for trusting us with your vision. We are equally appreciative to our team at GPI Design for propelling the construction process while balancing engineering, detailing, and site conditions.