



Lighting Mock-ups Make Brilliant Cents
By Stephanie Enlow

Why should you invest time and money into doing a mock-up at the Lighting Design Lab? Studies prove that commercial spaces are improved by the installation of quality lighting systems. Are you planning to remodel a space in preparation for leasing? Invest some money into the lighting systems-with little paint and a planned lighting retrofit; watch how quickly the space gets leased. John

Speirs, of KG Investments said, "Without a doubt, good lighting quality creates an atmosphere that has a positive influence on leasing space. You cannot get a better return on your investment than with energy upgrades and they are easy to sell to owners and tenants. It's more than simple payback."

How are complex lighting solutions or technologies conveyed a to an owner? There are many tools available to the lighting professional, but to the layman the interpretation of these studies is like trying to read a foreign language. Computer renderings provide some additional insight, but they require special software to generate with no guarantees that it will portray the actual constructed design correctly. Sketches convey preliminary concepts well, but cannot convey the idea without some artistic license, which may not be accurate.

Seeing is believing. I have had many opportunities in my career to do mock-ups and they have provided valuable information that saved the owner money in time and material. A design team may take several lighting systems and compare them in a simulated space and make changes to design without causing the owner additional charges by delaying the construction of a project.

The Lab offers this service to anyone who is making decisions about commercial lighting systems. The Lighting Design Lab has operated throughout the Pacific Northwest since 1989. It is sponsored by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, and is part of the BetterBricks system. The Lab's mission is to transform the Northwest lighting market by promoting quality design and energy efficient technologies. The Lab accomplishes this mission through education and training, consultations, technical assistance, and by providing mock-ups of commercial lighting systems. With its twenty-five by forty-foot mock-up room with adjustable 20 foot high ceiling, the Lighting Design Lab has modeled everything from classrooms to retail spaces, offices, and hospitals rooms.

As part of the mission, the Lab donates eight hours of labor, and three days of viewing time. If additional time is required charges are incurred only for the time and materials. Specialists are on staff to help your design team plan the most cost and time efficient mock-up. This service can be provided to the lighting community at such an economical rate because of the support it receives from our local power companies through the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

Photos and examples of mockups done over the past years are available on the projects' website/ For more information on the Lighting Design Lab's mock-up services visit www.lightingdesignlab.com.

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News



Above: The Evergreen Medical Center corridor uses color changing lighting to add visual interest in an ordinarily pedestrian space. Ms Enlow conducted several mockups at the LDL as part of the development of the design. Photo courtesy Sparling Electrical Engineering.

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