

Case Study:

Syracuse University – Syracuse, New York

Williams Linear Luminaire Makes an Impression at Major University Center of Excellence



Job Specific Information:

- 1,500 linear feet of H.E. Williams linear luminaires, equipped with 28-watt T5 fluorescent lamps. The fixtures ranged in length from 20' to 108'.
- Mounting Height: 12' above floor.
- Spacing: 15' on center.
- Light Output: 38 footcandles on surfaces, well above the original projection of 22 footcandles.
- For complete LLS specifications, see hewilliams.com.

When Syracuse University was building a new headquarters for its Center of Excellence (CoE), the award-winning design was hailed for its potential to showcase cutting-edge concepts in environmental and energy systems.

At the time, campus leaders had no way of knowing the CoE would also display innovative interior lighting, born of a partnership between a Syracuse engineer and H.E. Williams, Inc.

"The original project specifications called for indirect lighting installed between radiant ceiling panels, and I was convinced that was just going to disappear without providing any useful lighting below," said Paul Mahaney, senior project engineer for the university's office of campus planning, design and construction. "But when I roughed out a custom fixture concept I wanted to use, our existing lighting provider could not deliver it on our deadline."

Based on previous experience, Mahaney took his idea to the Williams engineering group, which determined the concept could quickly be put into production. The result of that collaboration was the Williams LLS, a sleek, linear luminaire combining a three-inch square channel with an offset frosted glass lens.

"The Williams team was just phenomenal to work with," Mahaney said. "They not only took the concept and got it built, but delivered the quantities we needed on our project deadline."

Once installed, the new fixtures delivered ideal downlighting for the CoE's stand-alone settings, such as offices and research labs. Additionally, the linear luminaire's tab-and-slot design made it ideal for use in continuous rows—a key issue to ensure quality light for the CoE's long corridors.

While Mahaney was pleased with the look and downlighting performance of the new fixtures, he found the design offered a surprising bonus.

"We thought we wouldn't get any uplighting from this fixture, but in reality I think we're getting as much as five percent due to reflectance from the glass," he said. "The optics in this fixture are just unbelievable."