

Case Study:

Williams Fixtures, Innovative California Recreation Center Attract Prominent Attention from Design Publications

House of Air – San Francisco, California



For those with neither the skills nor pocketbook to fly airplanes, the House of Air is a dream come true. Located on the decommissioned Presidio military base, the old airplane hangar was purchased by two snowboarding aficionados with the goal of converting it into a state-of-the-art indoor trampoline recreation center.

But modifying a 90-year-old building—especially one with a high, dark concrete ceiling—meant navigating some down-to-earth realities.

“The project was in a historical facility, with a beautiful view of San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge,” said Marianne Berger, outside sales representative for Associated Lighting Representatives (ALR) in Oakland, CA. “But from a design and lighting standpoint, it did offer a lot of challenges.”

Working with electrical engineers at Cupertino Electric, Berger’s initial task was to assemble a lighting package that complemented architect Mark Horton’s vision for the space—a vision that was ultimately featured in both *Architect* and *Interior Design*. To provide a hip, futuristic feel for the former hangar spaces that were converted to trampoline bays and upper floor party rooms and offices, Horton’s design included a series of vertical polycarbonate panels backlit by linear fluorescent lighting. For this unique application, Berger recommended the Williams Series 73 ministrip luminaire.

“The blue panels were an eye-catching part of the overall design, and the Williams ministrip luminaires offered the compact size, reliability and lighting performance we needed to bring that design to life,” she said.

While the fluorescent backlighting generated the most visual buzz, the search for a workhorse fixture to illuminate the main recreation areas was equally important. Initially, Berger reviewed induction and LED products for this application. Eventually, she honed in on the Williams ICELB32 luminaire because of its extremely long lamp life and an array of other critical benefits.



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Job Specific Information:

- Fixtures and Quantity:
 - ◆ 140 Williams Series 73 fluorescent T5 ministrip luminaires, with various lamp configurations
 - ◆ 9 Williams pendant-mounted ICELB32 luminaires with twin 150-watt induction lamps
 - ◆ 2 Williams WMA architectural wall mount luminaires, each with one 54-watt lamp.
- Mounting Height: 20 feet for pendant-mounted luminaires
- Spacing: Irregular
- Light Output: For induction lighting, 13 footcandles maintained on floor spaces



“Since the floor areas were literally covered in trampolines, the induction application was perfect because of the extremely long lamp life, and because Williams offered ballasts that could be serviced from a remote location,” Berger said.

In addition to lamp life and easy maintenance, the Williams ICELB32 provided other advantages, including a durable spun aluminum housing and instant restrike capability. The 32-inch diameter fixture also had an aperture big enough to spread lighting around the House of Air’s sizable interior while still maintaining good footcandle output on play area surfaces.

Today, the House of Air is a popular location for daredevil teens, families and those simply looking for a different kind of recreational outing. And, because the facility owners invested in high-quality Williams fluorescent and induction luminaires, thrillseekers and their fans can rely on crisp, clean light to watch the latest aerobic fun for many years to come.

“On this job, we needed lighting products that were both exciting and functional from an architectural point of view,” said Berger. “The Williams fixtures were exactly what we needed to meet some of those key lighting needs.”