



RUCKUS

MANUFACTURER: KI

PERFORMANCE: Taking cues from current workplace-furniture trends, this chair accommodates different postures to encourage productivity. Available in a 15"- or 18"-high version, Ruckus is offered on four legs, glides, or casters.

PRICE RANGE: \$\$

APPLICATIONS: Available in a choice of 24 poly colors with a black or warm-gray base, the chair is ideal in learning spaces, offices, healthcare facilities, and more.

KI.COM

(SNAP #225)



SUBTRACTIVE LAYERS

MANUFACTURER: Patcraft

PERFORMANCE: This easy-to-clean and -maintain dry-back luxury vinyl tile sports a 20-mil wear layer for added durability.

PRICE RANGE: \$\$

APPLICATIONS: Well suited to high-traffic areas of any commercial project, the collection comes in a 12"-x-24" format and in 20 colors inspired by acrylic paintings.

PATCRAFT.COM

(SNAP #226)



TRANSPARENCY

MANUFACTURER: Nordeon

PERFORMANCE: The luminaire's tempered-glass lens refracts light from concealed edge-lit LEDs to deliver even direct and indirect up- and down-light distribution. It can be specified in 3,000K or 4,000K color-temperature LEDs.

PRICE RANGE: \$\$

APPLICATIONS: This super-minimalist panel-style pendant provides direct and indirect uniform, glare-free illumination that is suitable for libraries, universities, schools, retail stores, offices, and medical facilities. It is available in white or silver finish and suspended on stainless steel aircraft cables.

NORDEON-USA.COM

(SNAP #227)



CASCADE SPIRAL NOTEBOARD

MANUFACTURER: Smith System

PERFORMANCE: To maximize classroom space, Smith System combined a writable board with storage into a single cart. Configurable options include lockable doors, storage totes, or open shelves and on casters or glides.

PRICE RANGE: \$\$

APPLICATIONS: Ideal for elementary school classrooms, libraries, and other centers catering to young people. It measures 29" wide by 19" deep by 71" high; the end panels come in a choice of 19 powder-coat colors.

SMITHSYSTEM.COM

(SNAP #228)

KEY \$ = VALUE, \$\$ = MID-RANGE, \$\$\$ = HIGH-END

The Glaring Issue of Daylighting in Education Settings

IN THE 1960s AND '70s, some may have believed that windows in schools only served to distract occupants, but today there's a consensus among many architects that the natural light windows afford is beneficial to students, helping improve learning and attentiveness, instilling positive moods, and even supplying added Vitamin D. Of course, daylighting doesn't mean haphazardly adding a curtainwall or window.

Often, "the biggest oversight is glare," says Jeffrey Murphy, a founding partner of **MBB**. "We recommend careful sun simulation studies that can inform the design and orientation early on." When planning elementary school PS330Q, for instance, his firm conceived upper hopper panels with white-fritted **Pilkington** glass in the south-facing classrooms to combat glare. Matte finishes for millwork surfaces, floors, and furnishings and a *brise soleil* by **Architectural Louvers** further mitigate the harsh reflections and light.

Marsha Maytum, principal of **Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects** concurs: "Getting enough light in a room is often less of a challenge. We're interested in optimizing visual comfort." In addition to carefully choosing surface finishes and orienting the openings, she points to solutions such as designing thin floor plates, daylighting from multiple sides to produce even light levels, and strategically using solar-control products. Demonstrating these tactics, Jacobs Institute at UC Berkeley features a glazed south elevation paired with a custom system of 42-inch-deep horizontal shading louvers. And the building's east-west-oriented public spaces provide views but still minimize glare and solar heat gain via 6-inch-deep **Aerolite** vertical blades.

Ultimately, both firms emphasize that designers should consider the specific uses and activities of each school space in addition to orientation toward the sun to determine how best to harness and direct daylight. "The responsibility of the design team is to provide an appropriate solution for the space's intended use," says Maytum. "It's counterproductive to provide a well-designed, day-lit space if those using it are going to close the shades and turn on artificial lights for the duration of the class." —SK



LIGHTING THE WAY

Daylight floods a hallway at PS330Q, spilling over into a sunken gym and basement via full-height interior glazing (top). External light shelves help control and filter sunlight in the south-facing main studio of the Jacobs Institute for Design Innovation (bottom).

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF TIM GRIFFITH (JACOBS INSTITUTE), CHUCK CHOI/MBB ARCHITECTS