

Aldrich Hall

Harvard Business School, Boston MA



Architect: Baker Design Group

Completed: 2005



Aldrich Hall is the main classroom building for Harvard Business School. 14 newly renovated amphitheatres bring unprecedented flexibility and new technology to HBS.

Classroom lighting and AV are controlled from integrated LCD touch-screens and buttons on the blackboards. Sophisticated logic programming assesses which projection screens are lowered to trigger the appropriate scene presets.

Due to extremely constricted ceiling heights, indirect lighting solutions were jettisoned in favor of providing 50 foot-candles of task lighting through dimmable CFL downlights. To bolster video teleconference signals, a wide distribution downlight was chosen to maximize vertical light levels; perimeter walls were also accented.

Corridors are heavily used - not only for circulation, but also as meeting spaces, and to display art. Circulation nodes are marked by custom Alabaster bowl pendants uplighting the ceiling while downlights gently highlight the school's extensive art collection.

Meeting spaces are semi-circular alcoves. Custom lantern pendants echo the building's 3-story-tall lantern design, while downlights over the table provide task illumination.

Ceiling fixtures and custom pendants in stairwells provide soft overall illumination - while recessed steplights integrated into the millwork cast direct light onto treads. Extensive calculations and mockups were performed to assure school officials that there would be an improvement over existing conditions. A dark and foreboding space was transformed into a bright and vibrant entry into this world-class facility.