

# AVAILABLE LIGHT

## Douglas D. Schumann Library & Learning Commons • WIT Boston MA



In the 21st century, libraries—especially at college institutions, like Wentworth Institute of Technology—have radically changed. No longer merely book dispensaries, they now serve as a town center. Libraries are knowledge sanctuaries at the forefront of connecting with a flow of nonstop 24/7 streaming information. As such, the physical space of libraries must adapt to celebrate and serve this new, ever-expanding model. The goal of this library renovation was to transform a dark and cramped 1970s space into a modern learning commons, complete with a small group study rooms, quiet reading rooms, tech sandbox, lounge, café - oh, and book storage and distribution. Using museum-grade lighting track to carry both electricity and data was our solution to challenges presented with the existing waffle slab ceiling. In the spaces off the main reading room extremely shallow recess depth required thoughtful lighting solutions. Balancing daylight penetration with electric light daylight harvesting was also critical to our desire to minimize energy consumption. Now complete, the renovated space represents a new era in the university's library system - a facility designed to grow and modulate as the role of a library is continually reassessed.



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Architect: Perkins + Will  
Completed: 2017  
Photos by: Albert Vecerka, ESTO  
Award: 2017 IES Section Award of Merit