GUIDE TO CHURCH LIGHTING

GENERAL

Proper illumination of an ecclesiastical worship space (Church lighting) must primarily provide sufficient illumination for comfortable seeing. Direct glare should be minimized.

The amount of light that will be required varies depending upon the architecture and the interior finish of the worship space. Today the recommended level of light at the reading plane, ranges between 15 and 40 footcandles. Horizontal footcandles, as measured over the pews, using a light meter.

Often a dimming system and/or switching system is employed to vary the lighting intensity levels in order accommodate and facilitate different types of services at perhaps different times of the day or night.

Lighting also is a critical element in enhancing the architectural space as well as affecting the mood and visual response of the people.

Wiring in existing churches must be checked for their electrical capacity prior to system design

LUMINAIRE SELECTION

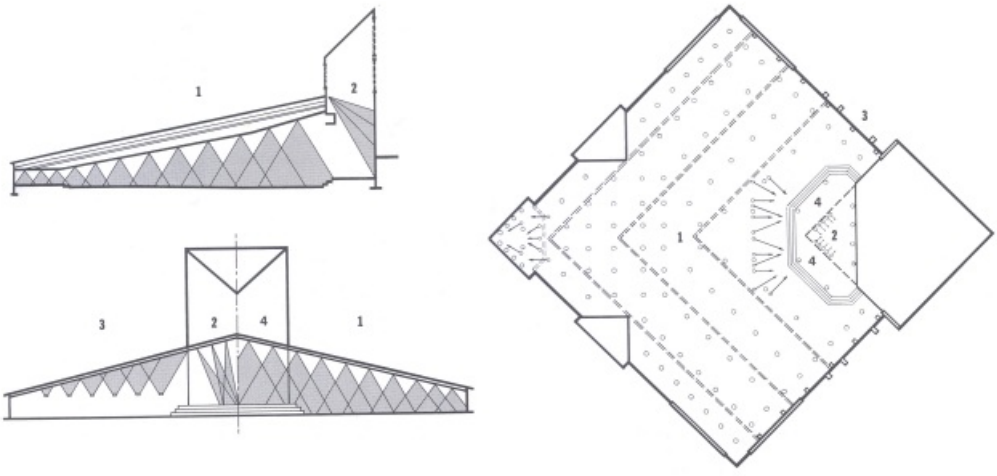
Recessed fixtures are ideal for spaces employing a tiered balcony and two-story seating, since there are no obstructions of views or lines of sight.

Often spaces with higher ceilings and single level of seating seem to lend themselves to hanging fixtures, pendant bowls, or cylinders employing a combination of *uplight* to throw light onto the ceiling and direct *downlighting* throwing light uniformly over the pews.

The style and design of any hanging or ceiling mounted fixtures should complement the church's overall architectural style whether it is contemporary or traditional in design or something in between. Since hanging fixtures serve as an architectural element unto themselves - - - think of it as “Lighting to look at, as well as lighting to see by” Hanging fixtures can, depending upon the specific layout, reduce the wattage used for lighting because the fixtures are closer to the pews and the seeing task.

Uplighting bounces light up off the ceiling in order to: A) Light the entire area with “soft” lighting B) increase the appearance of space. *Uplighting* works best with a relatively low, light colored ceiling. This type of lighting is most comfortable on the eyes. Directional lighting or *Downlighting* is more efficient, in that it places the light directly over the pews, illuminating what is to be seen.

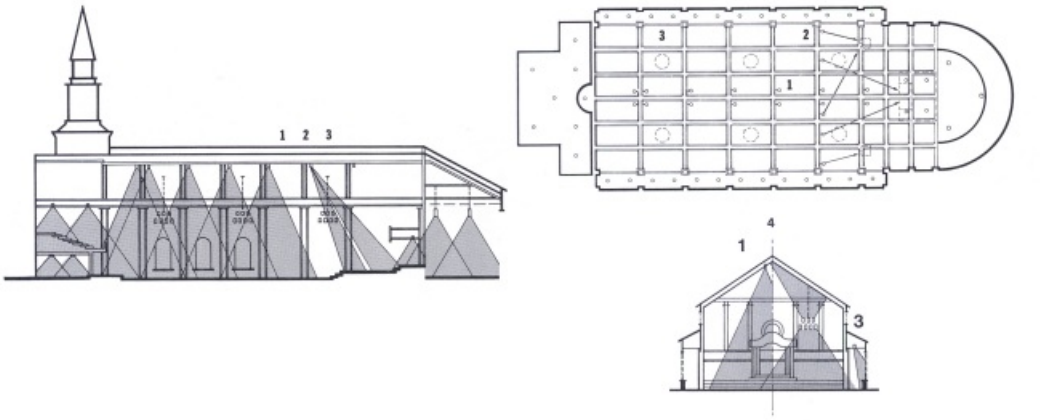
Some Peachtree Lighting hanging fixtures combine *Uplighting* and *Downlighting* or Directional lighting offering the advantages of both.



MOUNTING HEIGHT

The ceiling height is the mounting height for recessed or surface mounted fixtures. The mounting height for hanging fixtures should be such, that a uniform light distribution is achieved A good rule of thumb is - - - The mounting height of hanging fixtures should be 1.5 times the distance between fixtures.

Uplight style fixtures should not be placed too close to the ceiling to avoid “hot spots”



LAMP TYPE

Comfortable seeing is generally achieved by employing 5 watts per sq. ft. using incandescent (quartz, PAR lamps, or R floods) this is the least expensive light source to dim.

Good lighting can be achieved for as little as one watt per sq. ft. using more expensive fluorescent or metal halide fixtures. - - dimming is also more expensive and more complicated. However an additional benefit of fluorescent or metal halide is longer lamp life, and therefore much longer change out cycles.

SIZING THE HANGING FIXTURE

If the shape of the space is such that *"the height is greater than the width"*... select a hanging fixture with about one inch diameter to each foot of spacing between units. In other words... select a 12 " diameter fixture if there will be 12' between fixtures. Or a 16" diameter fixture if there will be 16' between fixtures.

For interiors where the *"width is greater than the height"*... use 2" in fixture diameter for each foot between fixtures. In other words - - select a 16" diameter fixture if there will be 8' between fixtures.

Please remember to arrange the fixtures so they are centered over the pew area, to insure enough light for proper reading. Maintenance is important and should be "planned for" in the design stage. But fixtures should not be placed over the aisles, when the seeing task is reading in the pews.

ALTAR AND PULPIT

The altar area is generally the focal point in most churches. It is recommended that the light level should be three times the level of light over the pews.

Direct the lighting from at least two opposing units 30° to 45 ° in front of an altar, podium, lectern, or pulpit. The light should be above where the person or speaker stands. Use adjustable spots or flood beams mounted behind some sort of facade.

ENTRANCE AREA AND HALLWAYS

Peachtree Lighting offers complementary styled wall sconce in various sizes, in order to tie the whole project motif together.

Peachtree Lighting offers a wide array of finishes, side panel material, and bowl colors as well as trim and accent artifact. We offer a wide variety of mounting hardware including hanger chain, cables, pendant rod and stems along with many different styled canopies.

CUSTOM DESIGN

Peachtree Lighting craftsmen have the experience to handcraft fixtures built to your specifications when your project calls for something special. We

would love the opportunity to be of assistance to your needs.