DILLON MCCRAY THOMAS

PORTFOLIO

UPDATED DECEMBER 2025

This portfolio introduces my undergraduate work in theater design & technology alongside an exploration of architectural studies, reflecting my belief that creativity should not only shape experiences but also contribute to a better world. Rooted in theatrical design and evolving into architectural lighting, my work is driven by a commitment to sustainability. Looking ahead, I aim to design spaces where environmental responsibility and human well-being work together.

DILLON MCCRAY THOMAS

RESUME

EDUCATION

Texas Christian University — Fort Worth, TX   8.2022 - 5.2026
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theatre (Design & Technology)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ARUP   6.2025 - 12.2025
Lighting Consulting Intern | Texas South Lighting Team

TCU Housing & Residence Life   8.2025 - Present
Lead Resident Assistant

THEATRICAL LIGHTING DESIGN PRODUCTIONS (TCU)

The Wolves   Spring 2023

Bard To Broadway   Fall 2023

The Choreographers Stage   Fall 2023

Blackout Volume 3-6 (Student Cabaret Performance)   Fall 2022 - 2025

The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds   Fall 2024

NON-DESIGN LEADERSHIP & SERVICE (TCU)

TCU Student Government Association
Marketing & Communication Chair   4.2024 - 5.2025

TCU New Student and Family Programs
Orientation Coordinator   9.2023 - 1.2025

TCU Office of Loyalty Giving
Digital Philanthropy Social Media Student Worker   9.2024 - 5.2025

SKILLS

BIM / CAD
Revit | AutoCAD | Vectorworks | SketchUp

Lighting Analysis & Visualization
DIALux Evo | AGi32 | Capture Visualization (Visualisation)

Rendering & Real-Time Visualization
Enscape | Twinmotion | Blender | Augment3D

Adobe Creative Suite
Photoshop | Indesign | Adobe Premiere Pro |
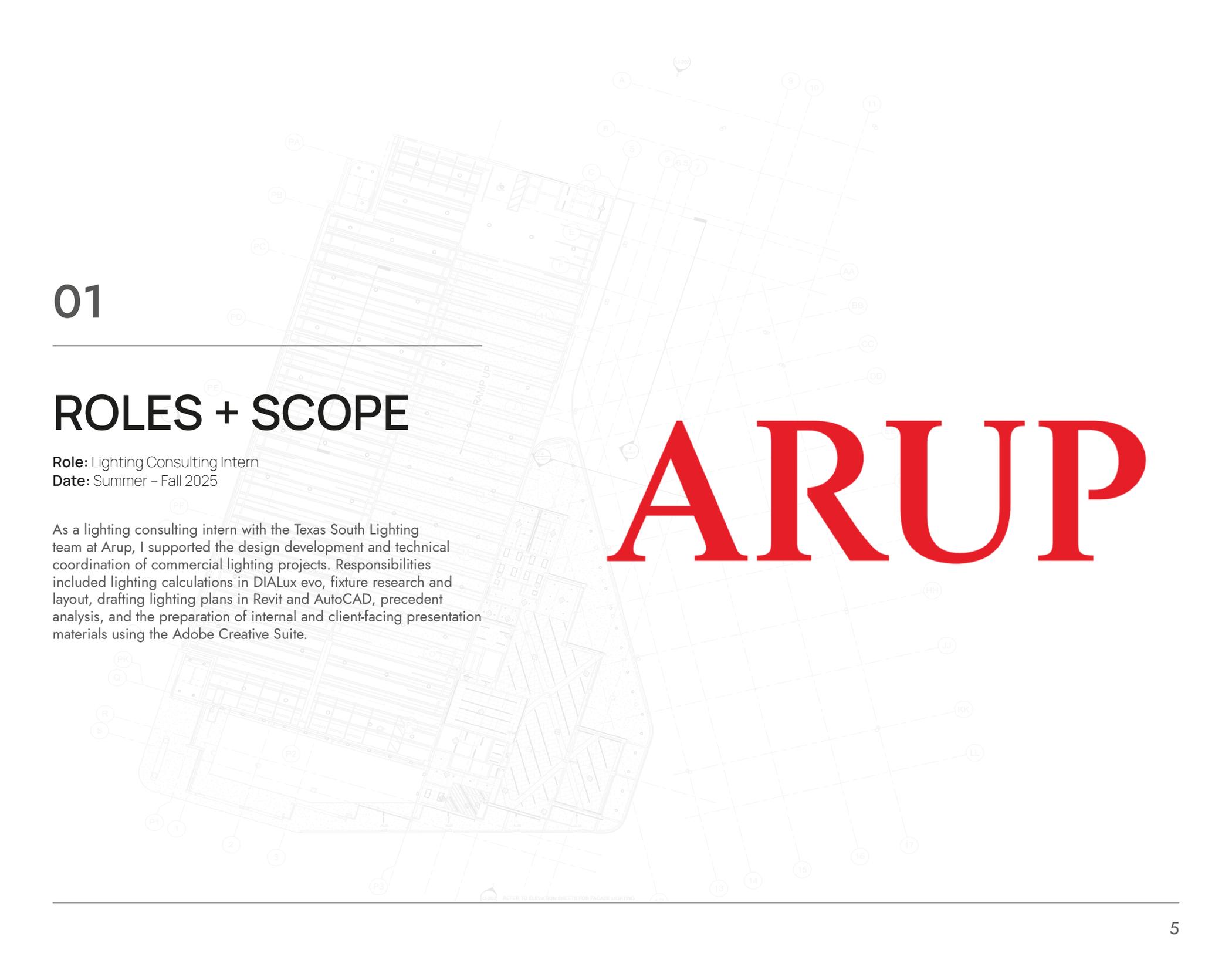Acrobat | Lightroom

Digital Illustration
Procreate

Productivity
Microsoft Office Suite

CONTENTS

01

ROLES + SCOPE

Role: Lighting Consulting Intern
Date: Summer – Fall 2025

As a lighting consulting intern with the Texas South Lighting team at Arup, I supported the design development and technical coordination of commercial lighting projects. Responsibilities included lighting calculations in DIALux evo, fixture research and layout, drafting lighting plans in Revit and AutoCAD, precedent analysis, and the preparation of internal and client-facing presentation materials using the Adobe Creative Suite.

ARUP

01

MIAMI BEACH

Project Type: Commercial - Lighting Design
**Location:** Miami Beach, FL
Date: Summer 2025
Software: DIALux Evo, Revit

The lighting design for the 72nd Street Miami Beach Community Center emphasizes safety, comfort, and environmental responsibility within a welcoming civic setting. A layered approach using downlights, linear fixtures, and grazers supports diverse interior functions, including reading, recreation, fitness, and gathering areas. Exterior lighting strategies address night-sky protection and Florida's turtle-friendly requirements through warm 3000K and amber sources, shielding, and controlled glare. Together, these strategies enhance visual clarity and user comfort while aligning with Miami Beach's sustainability goals
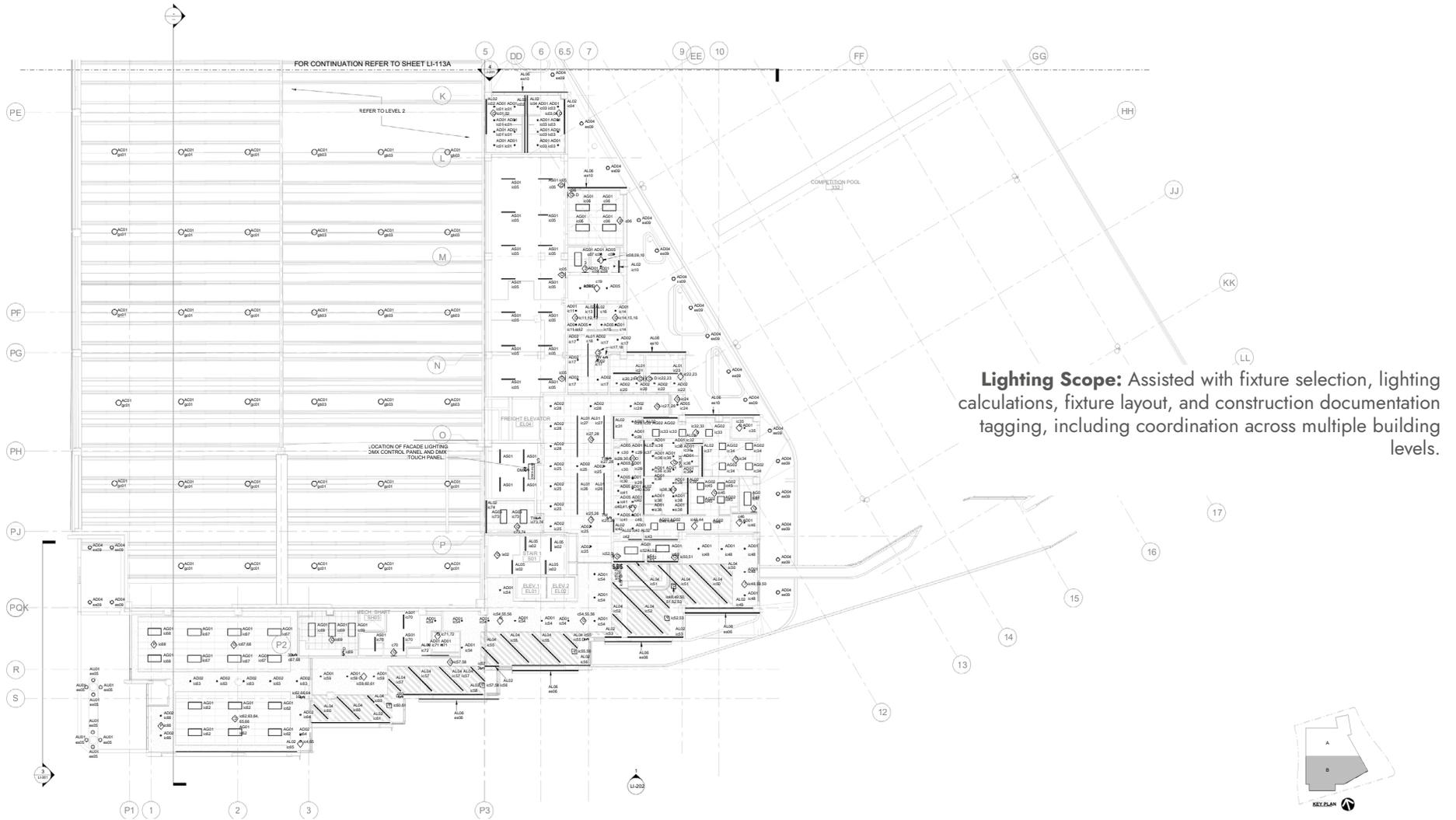
Caption

72ND STREET MIAMI BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER

Lighting Scope: Assisted with fixture selection, lighting calculations, fixture layout, and construction documentation tagging, including coordination across multiple building levels.

ARUP INTERNSHIP

72ND STREET MIAMI BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER

Lighting Scope: Assisted with fixture selection, lighting calculations, fixture layout, and construction documentation tagging, including coordination across multiple building levels.

02

GAMMA RAYS

Project Type: Lighting Design—Theatre Production
**Location:** Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
Date: Fall 2024
Software: Augment 3d, Capture Visualisation, Vectorworks

The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds by Paul Zindel explores growth and resilience within hostile conditions, where irradiated marigold seeds symbolize beauty and transformation emerging from adversity. The lighting design responds to a decaying domestic environment by using contrast, isolation, and shadow to reflect emotional instability, confinement, and moments of fragile hope. Shifts in intensity and focus allow light to adapt alongside the characters, reinforcing themes of end`urance and transformation in the face of adversity

LIGHTING PLOT
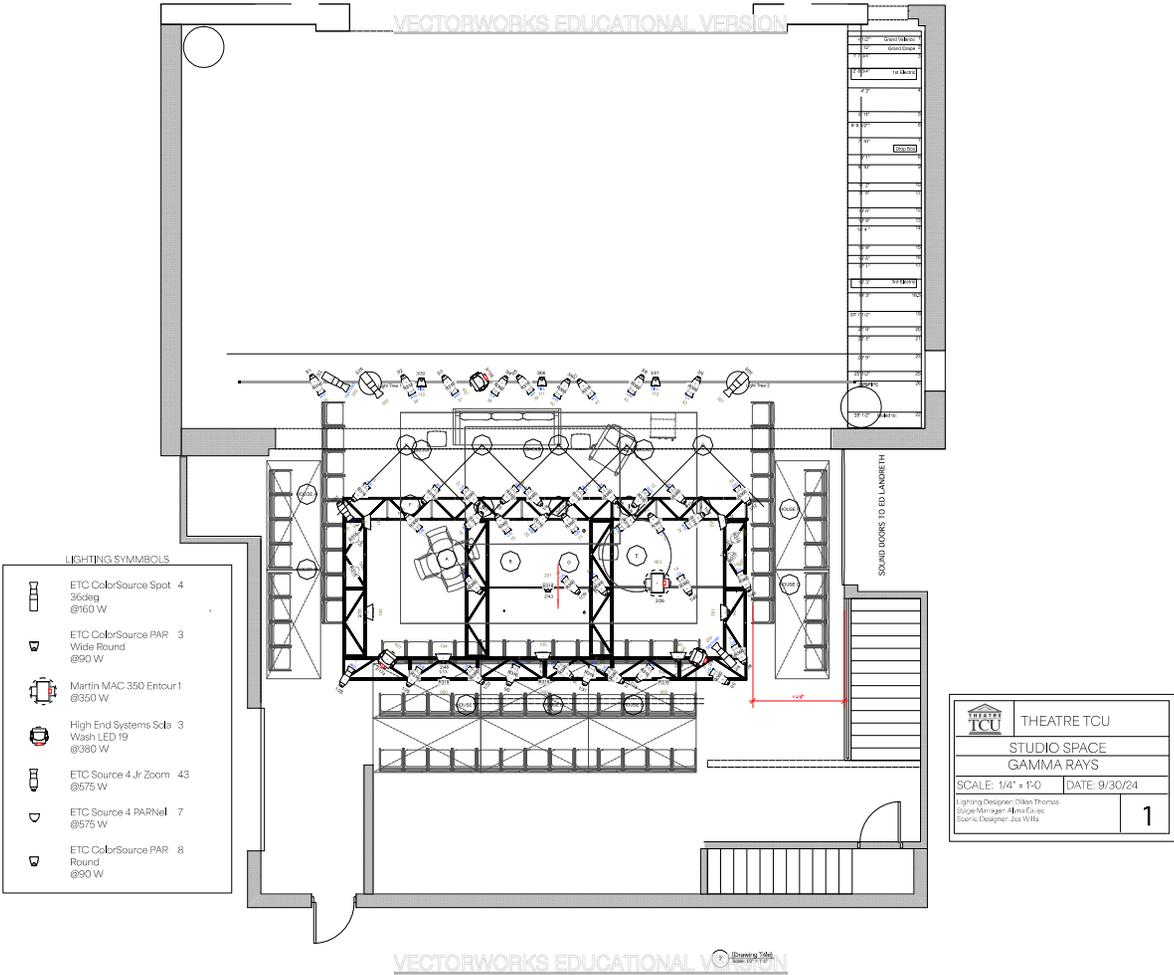
The lighting plot translates the conceptual drivers of contrast, isolation, and shadow into a cohesive technical system. Light and shadow are organized to emphasize the tension between hope and despair, growth and decay, and moments of stability versus collapse. Focused lighting and selective visibility reinforce emotional and physical isolation, heightening confinement and vulnerability, while shadow play adds depth and unease, suggesting hidden fear, suppressed emotions, and the instability of the domestic environment.

LIGHTING SYMMBOLS

ETC ColorSource Spot 4 36deg @160 W	
ETC ColorSource PAR 3 Wide Round @90 W	
Martin MAC 350 Entour 1 @350 W	
High End Systems Sola 3 Wash LED 19 @380 W	
ETC Source 4 Jr Zoom 43 @575 W	
ETC Source 4 PARNel 7 @575 W	
ETC ColorSource PAR 8 Round @90 W	

THEATRE TCU

STUDIO SPACE

GAMMA RAYS

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0   DATE: 9/30/24

Lighting Designer: Dillon Thomas
Stage Manager: Alyssa Eaves
Scenic Designer: Jos Willis

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GAMMA RAYS

02

PRELIMINARY LIGHTING RENDERINGS

Quick lighting concept renderings were developed using Capture Visualization to test intensity, color, focus, and contrast early in the design process.

These studies allowed rapid exploration of mood, isolation, and shadow before finalizing the lighting plot, ensuring that conceptual drivers translated clearly into spatial and emotional lighting choices on stage
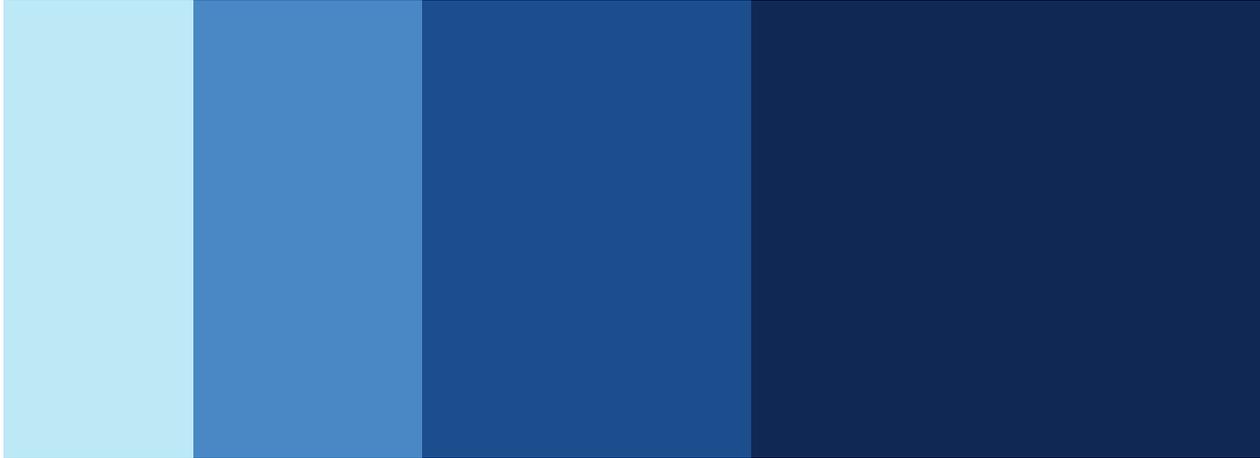
Alongside these renderings, precedent research in design was explored to inform spatial composition, material interaction, and atmospheric qualities, allowing conceptual inspiration to guide lighting decisions beyonvd technical execution.

COLOR PALETTES

Blue tones introduce emotional distance and detachment while also suggesting moments of intellect, clarity, and calm as characters navigate trials and adversity.

Earth tones are used to convey dullness, decay, and the weight of the mundane wenvirvonment, reinforcing the emotional stagnation of the domestic setting.

GAMMA RAYS

O2

PRODUCTION PHOTOS

GAMMA RAYS

02

03

GREEN CORE

Project Type: Conceptual Courtyard / Public Space
Location: Fort Worth, TX
Date: Fall 2025
Software: SketchUp, Enscape, Twinmotion

This biophilic courtyard explores timber and cork as renewable, low-carbon materials that create a warm and natural architectural environment. The design prioritizes daylight, openness, and passive strategies to strengthen the connection between people and nature.
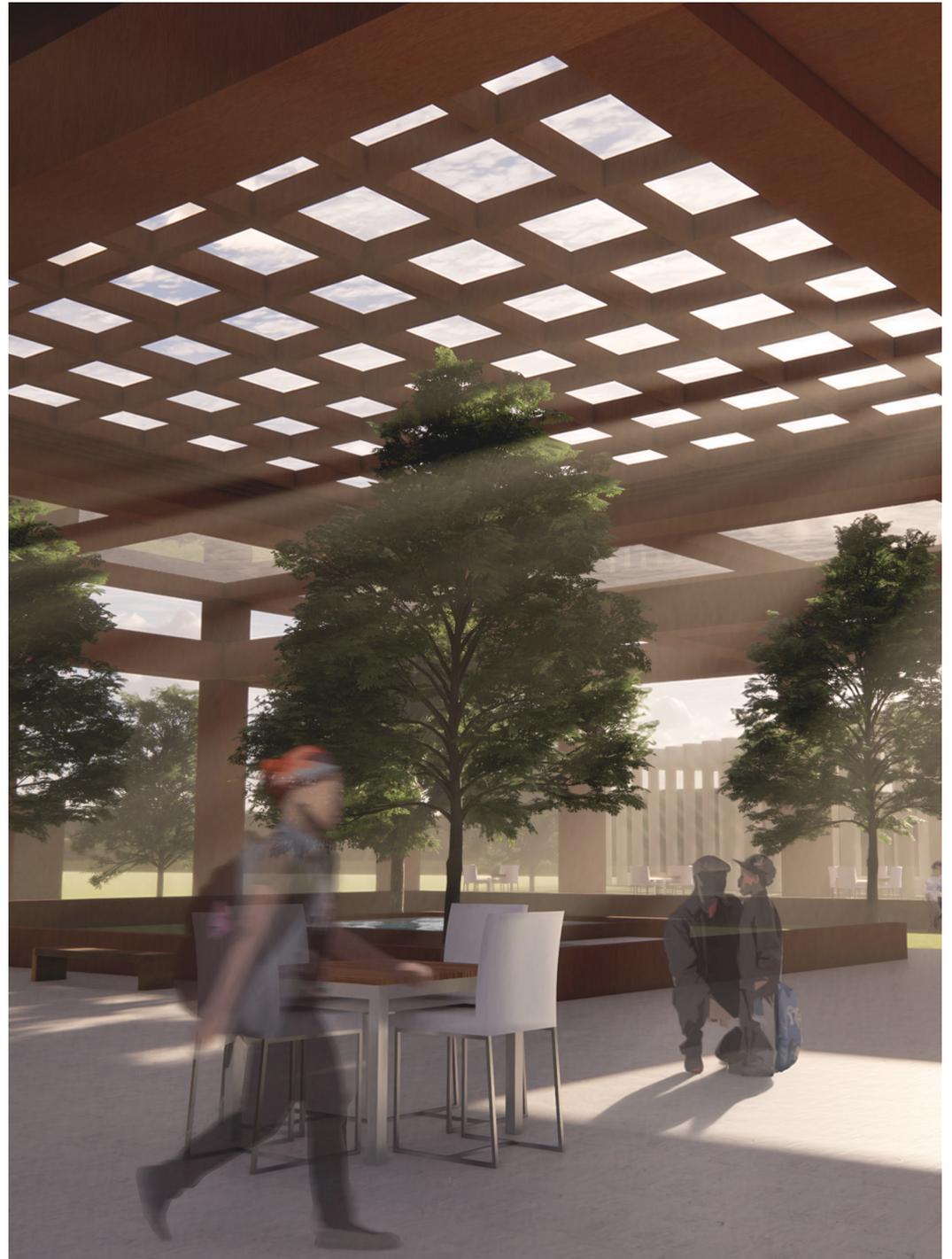
BIOPHILIC COURTYARD

The courtyard functions as a shared social space shaped by light, structure, and landscape. Trees, water, and shaded seating create a comfortable microclimate that supports rest, movement, and informal gathering throughout the day.

A gridded roof system introduces filtered daylight into the courtyard, allowing light to penetrate deep into the space while reducing glare and heat gain. The repeated apertures distribute soft, diffuse light throughout the courtyard, supporting visual comfort and a calm interior atmosphere.
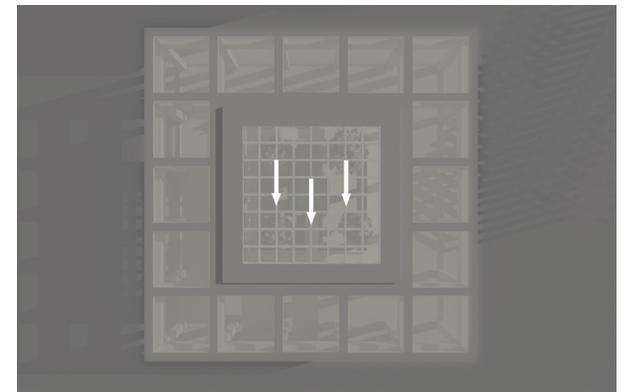
GREEN CORE

03

04

TEMPLE BETH-EL

Project Type: Conceptual Architectural Lighting Study
Location: San Antonio, TX
Date: Fall 2025
Software: Procreate, Photoshop, Rhino 3D

This project proposes a conceptual architectural lighting strategy for the Wulfe Sanctuary at Temple Beth-El in San Antonio, exploring how light can support ritual, procession, and collective gathering within a sacred interior. The design responds to the evolving nature of worship through adaptability, inclusivity, and atmospheric restraint while maintaining reverence for the existing architectural form.

Light is treated as a spatial and experiential element rather than a fixed condition. A hierarchy of ambient, focal, and accent lighting establishes moments of pause, orientation, and emphasis, balancing clarity and warmth while reinforcing the emotional character of the space.

This work was developed as an independent conceptual study during my lighting consulting internship with Arup, exploring a potential renovation approach for the Wulfe Sanctuary at Temple Beth-El.

WULFE SANCTUARY

The lighting system employs a layered approach combining ambient downlighting, vertical illumination, and focused accent lighting to articulate architectural rhythm and spatial hierarchy. Warm, tunable white luminaires allow the sanctuary to transition between contemplative and communal modes, supporting a range of worship practices and gathering scales.

Quantitative lighting studies were conducted to verify visual comfort and appropriate illumination levels while preserving the intended atmospheric quality of the space. Control strategies prioritize flexibility, longevity, and ease of use, ensuring the lighting system can adapt to future needs without compromising architectural intent.


TEMPLE BETH-EL

04
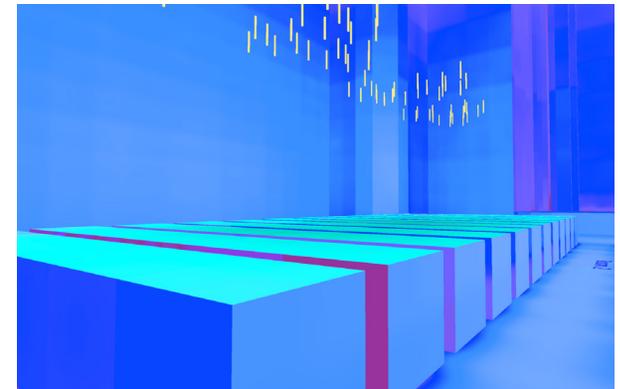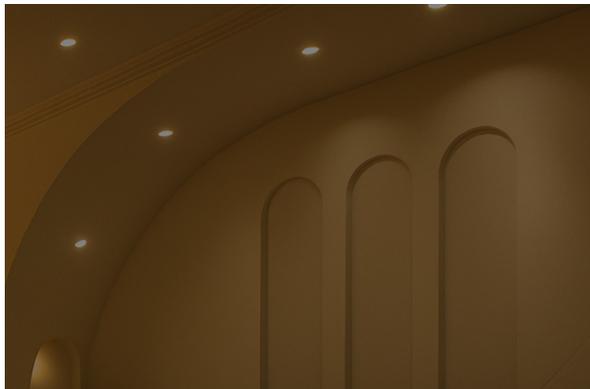
05

COSTUME DESIGN

Project Type: Conceptual - Costume Design Course
Location: Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
Date: Spring 2025

The Dark Circus is a fractured spectacle operated by exiled fairies forced to perform in the human world. Each character embodies one of the seven deadly sins, distorted through fairy lore and circus performance. Rather than literal representations, the sins emerge through unsettling behaviors and exaggerated roles, creating a world that feels unstable, deceptive, and morally fractured.
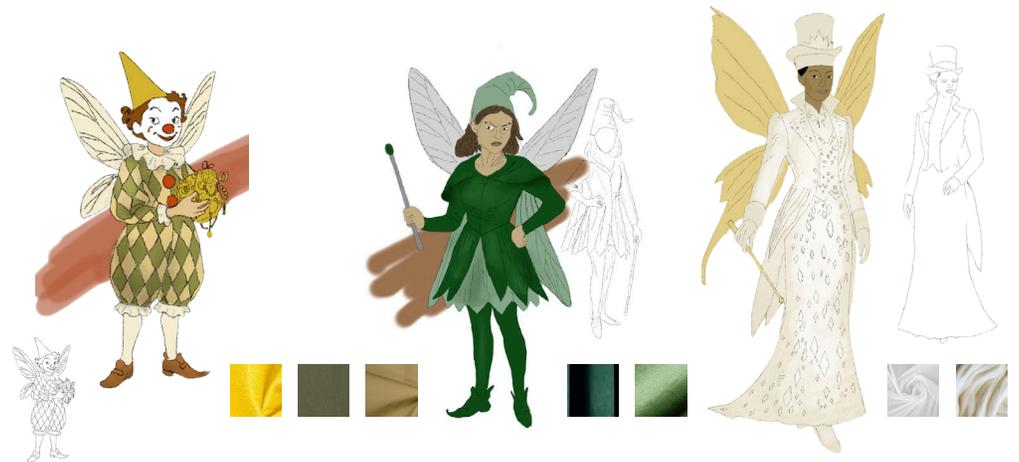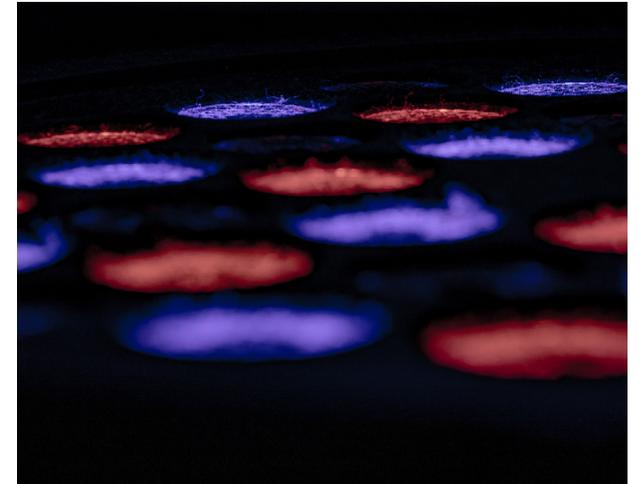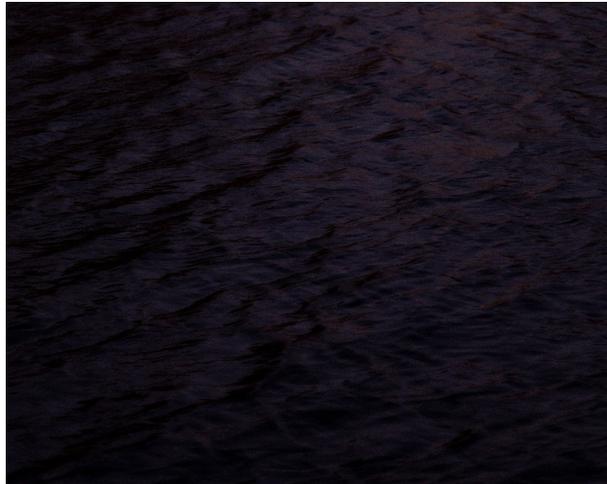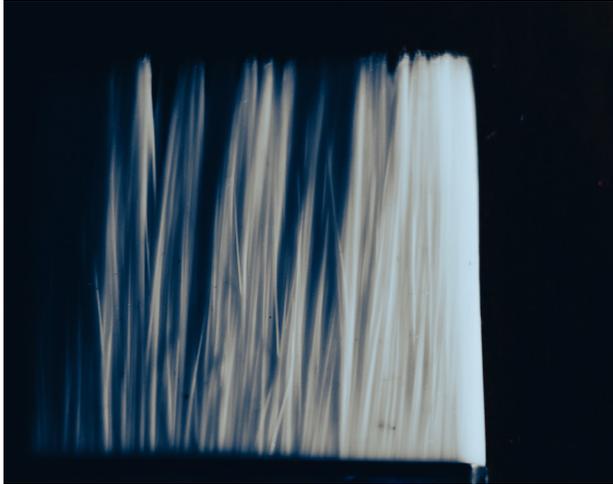
06

PHOTOGRAPHY

Date: 2024 - 2025
Experience: Photographer for Paradox Church

This photography series explores light, atmosphere, and composition, focusing on the relationship between light, space, and material. The work reflects an interest in spatial perception and the experiential qualities of the built environment.

LIGHT STUDIES

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THANK YOU

DILLON MCCRAY THOMAS