

The Proposed Lighting

Using state-of-the-art imaging technology a system has been devised that washes the classic façade. The system uses micro-formed reflectors to miniaturize the flood lamps so that they can be attached to existing poles on 40th Street, 42nd Street and the East side of 5th Avenue.

The mounting of luminaires directly to the building has been avoided to eliminate hot spots and the resulting “wedding cake effect.”

The 5th Avenue plaza features historical Carrere and Hastings fixtures. Rather than attaching modern lighting fixtures to them it is proposed that new fixtures be used. To make them as invisible as possible, these fixtures are located on the buildings side of the existing trees and are given a polished finish. Several materials were considered, but bronze was chosen as it is the most noble material, the same material used for many features of the library such as the doors and windows.

From studying the brightness of the reading room ceiling and the brightness of the main entrance on 5th Avenue and the surrounding buildings we recommend that the desired luminance or brightness level of the building should be 1.5 to 1.8 foot Lamberts. An on-site mock-up was used to determine that the color temperature of 3000K will best render the recently restored stone façade.

