TekDek LEDs Translate to Reliability and Value in Busy Business Valet Parking Garage

“TekDek really rose to the top,” said Hartranft, “To just look at the specs on paper was one thing, but to see it in person really made a difference.”

– Andrea Hartranft, IALD, Principal Hartranft Lighting Design

Project Summary: Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (CDIA) needed energy-efficient, attractive, controllable lighting for the new 3,200 space Business Valet Parking Deck. Induction fluorescent lighting had proved problematic, so engineers were searching for an improved lighting solution.

Challenge: Illuminate a highly-trafficked airport parking deck with energy-efficient, attractive lighting.

Solution: TekDek TD17

Benefit: TekDek’s attractive looks, energy-efficiency, reliability and low-glare appearance provides light that is comfortable for travel-weary patrons.
CDIA Business Valet Parking Deck Specifies TekDek for the Best Public Experience
Charlotte Douglas International Airport, Charlotte, NC

From the years 2005-2015, the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport experienced a passenger increase of more than 40 percent. Consequently, the airport undertook a number of infrastructure additions, including a new $40 million Business Valet Parking Deck. Because safety and security are an important benefit of parking in Business Valet, lighting was a critical part of the parking deck’s design.

Numerous lighting sources, including induction fluorescent and LED, were evaluated by planners for energy-efficiency, attractiveness and controllability. Since LEDs were relatively new and accounted for only 10 percent of commercial lighting installations in 2014 (the year the lighting was specified), the engineering firm in charge of the project approached solid-state lighting with some reservations: “After experiencing some issues with failure of induction fixtures on emergency circuits and on circuits controlled by motion sensors [in other garages], we started giving LED fixtures more consideration,” said John Taylor, a Senior Electrical Designer at McCracken & Lopez, P.A. “Our company had been cautious about specifying LED luminaires – feeling that they were still unproven in real-world applications. We eventually became convinced that LEDs had suitable value and reliability, and this attitude may have been triggered in a large part by the TekDek fixture. We have specified it in other parking garages, and it seems to be performing well.”

Andrea Hartranft, IALD, Principal at Hartranft Lighting Design, was brought in to do a full-scale lighting mockup that included 13 fixtures. “TekDek really rose to the top,” said Hartranft, “To just look at the specs on paper was one thing, but to see it in person really made a difference.” Hartranft said she put herself in the business commuter’s shoes – thinking of the lighting’s impact on a weary passenger after a full day of work and travel. “The TekDek was just comfortable to look at,” said Hartranft. Taylor added, “At the time, I had not seen any other manufacturer’s product with equal performance, and to be honest, most parking garage luminaires were simply ugly.”

The Business Valet Parking Deck installed more than 600 TekDek TD17 luminaires, fulfilling the airport’s desire to install lighting that provided the best cost of ownership and the “best public experience,” according to Hartranft and Taylor.

TekDek continues to lead the field of parking luminaires with its sleek design, controls compatibility and energy efficiency. In October of 2016, a high-output TekDek luminaire was selected for the 2016 Illumination Engineering Society (IES) Progress Report. Although most frequently found in parking garages, TekDeks have also been installed in many other challenging environments, including cold storage and warehouses.

Benefits for Charlotte-Douglas International Airport:

- Modern design aesthetic provides clean, attractive appearance
- Kenall’s patented optics reduce disabling glare, increasing patron safety and comfort
- Compatibility with controls
- Cost and energy savings via reduced electricity usage
- Reduced maintenance

TekDek TD17 Features:

- Outstanding uniformity for heightened safety and security of patrons
- A variety of color temperatures
- Patented low glare optics
- Reduced maintenance costs due to long life LEDs (125,000 hours)
- DLC QPL listed
- Ingress Protection (IP65) rated and Wet Location listed; ideal for challenging parking environments
- Kenall’s exclusive Peace of Mind Guarantee® (when specified with DTS mount and polycarbonate lens)