

New Parking Structure Includes Latest Technology to Enhance User Experiences



Project: Houston State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine
Location: Conroe, TX
Specifier: Kirksey Architecture

“Since we *included many forward-thinking features to enhance the user experience, we wanted to specify an innovative lighting solution that also provided a stress free installation and uniform, bright light to make students, facility, and staff feel safe,”*

— Paul Newsoroff, partner and director, commercial practice Kirksey Architecture

Project Summary:

Kirksey Architecture approached Michelle Holman, managing partner at CW Lighting, to specify an innovative lighting solution for Sam Houston State University's (SHSU's) College of Osteopathic Medicine's (COM) new 328,000 sq ft parking garage, that provided a stress-free installation and uniform, bright light to make students, faculty and staff feel safe.

Challenge:

The design of the new SHSU parking garage included many forward-thinking features, to which the lighting had to be complementary. In addition to strong vertical illumination for clear visibility, and enhanced safety and security, it also needed to help patrons form a favorable impression of the space. Additionally, the interior fixtures needed to include dimming capabilities to meet local building codes.

Solution:

Kenall's HELOS (HPG Series) was specified to enhance vertical illumination for clear visibility of objects, such as columns, within the structure, while also providing a safe and secure environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors alike. The fixture's sleek, architectural design also complements the parking garage, and its light weight—a scant 7 lbs—was a welcomed benefit to the contractor.

HELOS (HPG Series)

Benefits:

- Delivered lumen range: 3,941 – 10,084 lm
- Efficacy: 110 – 135 lm/W
- Unique hexagonal light guide with edge-lit LED light engine
- Light weight: 7 lbs
- No uncomfortable "cascade effect"
- No commissioning required
- Simple, wireless zonal control



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Houston State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine's (COM) recently completed a 328,000-square-foot parking garage that amplifies the college's presence in Conroe, Texas, about 40 miles north of Houston. The five-level garage offers 983 parking spaces in a highly visible structure that acts as a billboard for those traveling on Interstate 45.

The parking structure provides additional parking for students, faculty, and staff of the COM, as well as parking for a four-story health professions building currently under construction. To enhance the connection to the COM and the visibility of the garage, the design is inspired by DNA sequencing in Sam Houston State University colors. Colored linear fabric panels alternate around the facades, creating a pattern that, at first glance, appears random. Two light boxes showcase the SHSU tilted logo at the North and East facades, leveraging views from the freeway. Additionally, wayfinding and branding graphics help visitors easily find stairways and elevators inside the garage.

To enhance the user experience, the garage employs gateless parking access, license plate recognition cameras, and a parking guidance system. Electric vehicle charging stations are an added convenience for visitors.

The project sits on an old riverbed on the West Fork of the San Jacinto River, which required the construction team to install Geopier Rammed Aggregate Piers 10-12 feet down to stabilize the structure in sandy terrain. This enhanced the soil strength by compacting the aggregate tightly within the piers, thereby reducing settlement and improving support for the structure.



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COM Parking Structure Lighting

Lighting is an important feature of parking garages, especially since most fixtures are on 24/7. Bright, uniform illumination helps with visibility, safety and security. Additionally, because first impressions are important, the right lighting helps patrons form a favorable opinion of the space before they even enter.

The project’s architectural firm, Kirksey Architecture, reached out to CW Lighting’s Managing Partner, Michelle Holman, to discuss the structure’s lighting. Since the code requires the interior fixtures to include dimming capabilities, Holman specified Kenall Manufacturing’s HELOS HPG series. Additionally, the fixture’s sleek architectural design complements the structure, and its light weight—a mere 7 lbs—made the ease of installation an unexpected, but welcomed, benefit to the contractor. With years of positive experience working with Kenall and the manufacturer’s innovative products, Holman knew this would be an ideal fixture for this project. “I trust Kenall’s HPG product line and wanted to provide the University with long-lasting, virtually maintenance-free light fixtures,” commented Holman. “I didn’t even consider any other products for this project,” added Holman.

The parking structure has 1,185 HELOS HPG 40W and 70W luminaires. Designed and manufactured entirely in Kenall’s Wisconsin production facility, the low-glare luminaire is critically important in a parking structure to enhance drivers’ visual acuity. The HPG improves vertical illumination to help drivers identify oncoming pedestrians, provide safe car entry, and enhance visibility of objects within the structure, like columns, to be seen more clearly.

“Since we included many forward-thinking features to enhance the user experience, we wanted to specify an innovative lighting solution that also provided a stress free installation and uniform, bright light to make students, facility, and staff feel safe,” said Paul Newsoroff, partner and director, commercial practice Kirksey Architecture. “Kenall’s HELOS HPG series provides superior glare control without compromising light levels,” added Neworoff.



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