

# Multnomah Library & MasterColor® Metal Halide Lamps

A • C A S E • S T U D Y

MasterColor® Metal Halide lamps from Philips Lighting Company have become important solutions for demanding architectural problems. With outstanding color and a variety of beam distributions, MasterColor lamps help designers put pleasing white light where its desired. A good example is the Multnomah County Public Library in Portland, Oregon. This 80-year old institution —much beloved in a city of readers—required major seismic and building systems upgrades, including new lighting.

Lighting Designer David Malman, Principal of Architectural Lighting Design in San Francisco, California wanted to create a “volumetric” lighting effect that would show off the lofty central rooms, while providing plenty of illumination for the stacks and main reading areas. Observed Malman, “The totally indirect lighting previously installed using “hockey puck” fixtures created a “soupy” effect with too much ceiling brightness and insufficient downlight.” Since, the 27’ ceiling could not be penetrated for recessed luminaires, both uplighting and downlighting had to come from hanging fixtures.



**“Since my experience on this project. I have been specifying MasterColor exclusively for low wattage metal halide.”**

—David Malman  
Principal of Architectural Lighting Design  
in San Francisco, CA



*Let's make things better.*

## Philips Lighting Meets the Challenge

Malman solved the problem by designing a custom pendant, styled to match the architectural detailing of the building. The pendant features a 36" acrylic diffusing bowl with four 26 watt compact fluorescent lamps and four downlights with MasterColor metal 70 watt PAR38 lamps attached to the rim. The pendant design includes louvered shielding for the downlights and a dust/insect cover that keeps the diffuser from shadows.

Working closely with Rochelle Kimball, the Philips Lighting Application Consultant, Architectural Lighting Design tested MasterColor® Technology extensively, using PAR20 and PAR30 lamps. The PAR38s that were ultimately specified provide the same color quality, but with more intensity, and also use standard metal halide ballasts. Acknowledges Malman, "Clients choose us because we are particularly design-oriented, but understanding light sources is critical to our success."

The Multnomah lighting design is remarkably effective. Malman explains, "The lighting is 70% direct, but the source appears to be the softly illuminated ceiling and gently glowing diffuser." He adds, "The room is bright and comfortable. The flood distribution from the MasterColor PAR38s blends the beams to create even illumination at the stacks, without pronounced body shadows." Malman notes that the new lighting significantly increases the amount of light, without glare, while meeting Oregon energy requirements (less than 1.87 watts per square foot).

The Multnomah renovation opened in 1997, on time, on budget, and to great acclaim. Malman adds that both the architect and owner are very pleased with the result, especially the character and quality of light. As Malman reflects, "Since my experience on this project, I have been specifying MasterColor exclusively for low wattage metal halide."



## Benefits of MasterColor® Metal Halide Lamps

- High luminous efficacy (up to 93 lumens per watt)
- High color rendering (81-85 CRI)
- True 3000°K correlated color temperature
- PAR, ED17, T6 and T6 Double-ended models
- Superior lumen maintenance (80% at 40% rated life)
- Superior color maintenance ( $\pm 200^{\circ}\text{K}$  at end of life)
- Standard metal halide ballasts and sockets

David Malman credits the entire team and the cooperative environment with the project's outcome.

Hardy Holzmann Pfeiffer Associates (Los Angeles) ..... Architects  
Fletcher Farr Ayotte, PC (Portland) ..... Architects  
PAE Consulting Engineers, Inc ..... Engineers

Hoffman Construction ..... General Contractor  
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Westar Electric ..... Electrical Distributor

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