

iCLAB (INTERNATIONAL CREATIVITY LABORATORY)
Viale Guidoni, 103 Florence, Italy

Proposed Conceptual Design for Entrance Canopy & Basement Skylight

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Design Concept: “*MOVEMENT*”

Change is a constant event that occurs in all aspects of life. The designed environment is in a state of consistent transformation, continuously responding to the ever-changing needs of its users. **Change is movement** towards another state of existence. It is because of this change that the need for cultivating a strong sense of culture arises, to preserve identity and community.

Movement in design has always been associated with, and represented by, **diagonal lines** and playful silhouettes. This element prevails in the proposed design for the entrance canopy, basement skylight, and autofrettage.

The current design and materials used in iCLAB's existing meeting room and exhibition area are straightforward and in a modern, simple, post-industrial motif. This theme easily allows the space to be a “blank canvas”, a neutral & flexible staging platform that may be used to showcase various types of cultural and artistic expressions. The proposed design concept uses the same post-industrial elements in order to fully support this end, and achieve consistency all throughout the laboratory. Glass, steel, and wood are used in the proposed design, because these are seen to be materials that people from all cultural backgrounds can relate to. Wood is used to make glass and steel feel warmer and more inviting. Moreover, the proposed design's clean lines and modern silhouettes are elements that can be appreciated by people with either modern or classical taste preference (e.g. I.M. Pei's modern design for The Louvre in Paris).

Retractable Skylight, Lightweight Materials, Awning-Type Windows

Modern technological innovations in the building industry today allow design professionals to fully utilize solar light and heat, and incorporate these flexibly into structures. Retractable skylights make it possible to open indoor areas to the outdoor when additional light and ventilation are desired, and close off these same areas when protection from outdoor elements is needed.

The proposed design intends to take full advantage of this innovation, especially its customizable size and specifications. It also intends to make use of lightweight and flexible materials, specified on the drawings as high-resistance PVC and powdercoated aluminum alloy.

The skylight is also designed with operable awning-type windows at the sides, in order to allow ventilation even when the skylight is closed. The awning design also allows protection (like in canopies/overhangs) from rain or direct sunlight.

Solar Panels

The proposed design offers a structural frame that can hold solar panels over PVC surfaces. This concept allows energy efficiency for the structure, and promotes sustainability.

Water Run-off Collection

The proposed design consists of a water collecting system through the use of a downspout connected to a catch basin (shown on drawings as plant boxes) that drains to a proposed landscaped area at the parking / ground level.



