



Light/Water Play: Proposal for a public lobby in a cold climate



The lobby contains large columns of water behind a glass, south- or southerly-facing facade. The water provides thermal mass to heat the large enclosed space, as well as provide provocative light-play. The surfaces on which the light through the columns registers is heavily textured concrete, here represented by a coarsely-woven cloth, increasing the intricacy of the light effect.

Effect

The angle of refraction of the water drives the prismatic light shaft down to the shadowy area below the feet of the columns; the rainbow prism effect is intensified by their appearance in an area in shadow.

Sensibility

The columns of water, heated with solar gain throughout the day, re-radiate heat throughout the space when there is no sun, helping to stabilize the temperature of the lobby during the cold seasons.

In warm seasons, a light-filtering blind could be drawn between the window and the water columns, which could be drained seasonally.

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