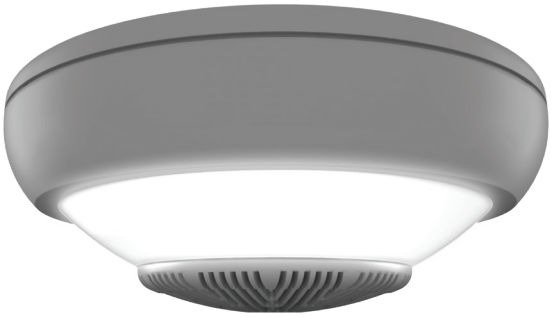
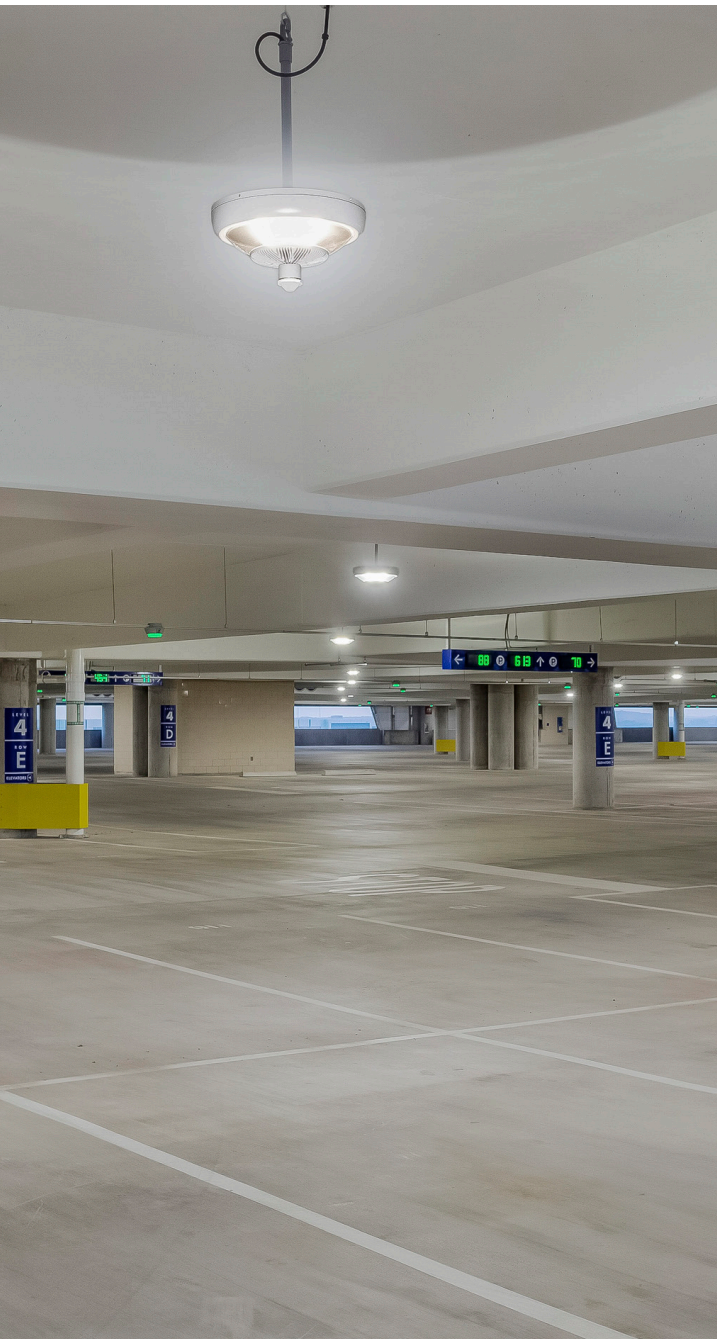
Indirect lighting helps new Austin airport garage take off





Amerlux eliminates glare problems with Chaperone fixture

As one of the fastest growing cities in the U.S., Austin, Texas, thinks big.

It's home to the legendary South by Southwest (SXSW), the University Texas, a vibrant music scene and some of the world's best BBQ ribs and brisket with a slice of pecan pie.

But a growing city needs a growing transportation center.

And that's why Austin-Bergstrom International Airport decided to design a new parking garage in 2016. Called the Blue Garage, the nearly 2 million-square-foot facility offers six levels of parking. The garage opened in 2019.

"The goal for the garage was to have sufficient parking strategically placed for the current and expected needs of the airport and terminal," says Charles Meyer, the project architect at PGAL in Austin.

One of the key concerns with the new garage was to avoid glare issues that plagued older parking facilities at the airport. The answer for illuminating that vast expanse of parking space was Amerlux's Chaperone garage luminaire. Chaperone was installed in five of the six decks, bathing more than 1.65 million square feet in comfortable indirect light from 1,340 fixtures.

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"With Chaperone, the light source is not the noticeable thing—just the resulting illuminance."
— **Charles Meyer**, architect at PGAL in Austin.

"We needed a consistent fixture for the general lighting of the garage," says Meyer. "We painted the concrete white on the bottom of all the slabs and beams to help brighten it. "We needed a general fixture and that's where Amerlux's Chaperone came in. Since it's such a large garage, we paired Chaperones with a secondary fixture that we used to help with wayfinding. The two fixtures were different in form and function. Chaperone is more of a lighting node and the other fixture was more of a linear language, so they functioned well together."

Chaperone's well-engineered design and glare-free light sealed the deal for the airport.

"The Chaperone's indirect lighting feature was the most important," says Kirke Coney, specification sales rep at Hossley Lighting Associates in Austin. "Also, the airport people really liked the aesthetics of the occupancy control sensors. They liked the way it sat on the bottom of the fixture and was very symmetrical. Some manufacturer's put the sensors on an arm off to the side, so it looks like an afterthought."

Other requirements from the airport, were the garage lighting had to be DLC-listed, wet-location rated, durable and controls agnostic. Chaperone ticked all the boxes.

A complete LED luminaire solution, Chaperone is designed to improve every aspect of the garage experience. It transforms what is often a dark and uncomfortable place into a safe, pedestrian-friendly venue with top visibility and excellent energy efficiency. Compounding these benefits, the airport leveraged sensors for occupancy and daylight harvesting on half of the fixtures.

"The lights are on 24/7, but they don't need to be on the brightest setting at night when few people are in the garage," says Meyer. "Our electrical engineer came up with a controls system to dim the lights with sensors."

To accompany the new garage, landscape architect firm, Asakura Robinson, was tasked with creating a walkway space to link the surface parking, the garages and the terminal together.

The walkway "needed to be a processional space," says Brendan Wittstruck, principal and director of urban design at Asakura Robinson. "There were two

"Lunetta fixtures have an artful design."

— **Brendan Wittstruck**, principal and director of urban design at Asakura Robinson

main concepts: one, a clear path of travel—we call it a ''spine"—that goes from one end to other. The second was a number of breadcrumb elements to draw people to it."

These breadcrumb elements included concrete planter walls, existing mature cypress trees and the lamp poles.

"We wanted the lighting strategy to be something visible from the outside parking lots and iconic enough to draw you in," says Wittstruck. "You can see the space as soon as you get off the escalator in the terminal from the parking garage. We wanted the lighting to be a place-making device, rather than just fixtures on a pole."

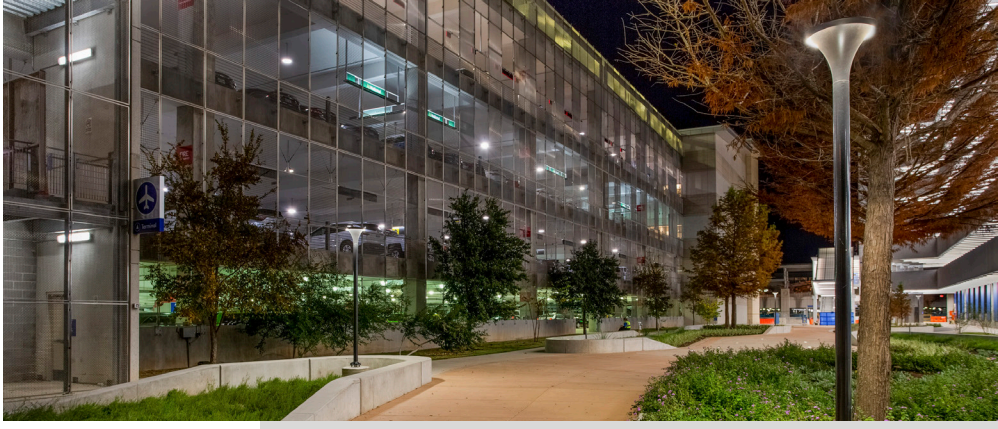
Amerlux's Lunetta post-mounted area lights fit the bill perfectly. "They have an artful design," says Wittstruck. "We needed to provide some verticality to the design. The parking garages are stacked heavy architecture and we wanted expressive elements that moved upward."

While conventional exterior lighting involves a bright luminaire atop a dark pole, Lunetta breaks from tradition by merging the luminaire and pole into one. Consisting of a straight round aluminum pole, it flairs toward the top in funnel-shape with recessed lighting at the summit. The LEDs graze light down the face of the luminaire and post, creating a distinctive and energy-efficient lighting experience.

Using 13 Lunetta fixtures, the lighting paced out the rhythm of the walkway. Since Lunettas have a flat top, Wittstruck and his team set all the tops on the same line to anchor the path's design. There was some elevation change along the path, so some of the poles were 10-feet tall and some were 12-feet tall to keep them on the same line.

A nearby administration building required an additional seven Lunetta fixtures for general lighting around it and 10 Passo step light fixtures were leveraged to highlight an architectural feature.

The whole project was meant to rethink the airport experience. "If you have to drive to the airport, so be it," says Wittstruck. "But navigating the parking garage, getting out of your car and walking to the terminal is easier now and a more pleasant environment to do it in."



PROJECT SUMMARY

End User

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

Project Scope

The City of Austin, Texas, expanded the parking facilities at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport by constructing a nearly 2 million square foot parking deck called the Blue Garage. More than 1,300 of Amerlux's Chaperone indirect garage luminaire was installed on five of the six levels.

As part of the garage project, a walkway was built to guide visitors to and from parking areas the terminal. Stretching from the surface parking lots, the path went south towards the terminal, going between the new garage and an existing garage. For general lighting and wayfinding, 13 Lunetta post-mounted area lights were used.

A nearby administration building required an additional seven Lunetta fixtures for general lighting and 10 Passo step light fixtures to highlight an architectural feature of the building.

Architect

Charles Meyer, PGAL, Austin, Texas

Landscape Architect

Brendan Wittstruck, Asakura Robinson, Austin, Texas

Lighting Consultant

Kirke Coney, Hossley Lighting Associates, Austin, Texas

Benefits

- Beautiful indirect lighting provides excellent illumination in the parking garage, while avoiding glare problems that plagued a previous airport garage project.
- Iconic aesthetics outside the parking garage that help with wayfinding and placemaking
- Long-lasting LEDs in Amerlux's Chaperone, Lunetta and Passo product families will deliver years of value in the form of energy efficiency and maintenance savings.

Have an upcoming project? Let's bring your vision to life. Call **888.882.1297**

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