



Contemplative Commons at the University of Virginia

PRODUCT

Planar DirectLight Ultra Series

LOCATION

Charlottesville, Virginia

INDUSTRY

Education

APPLICATION

Digital Signage

PARTNERS

Apeiro Design

Analog Way

Pavion

Aidlin Darling Design

Floor-to-Ceiling LED Video Wall Complements the Design Vision of UVA's Contemplative Commons

The University of Virginia's (UVA) Contemplative Commons is a 57,000-square-foot multipurpose building located at the heart of the historic Grounds. Designed to encourage new forms of exploration and engagement, the facility features light-filled interiors, integrated outdoor areas, and flexible studios that can serve as classrooms, research labs or other learning environments. It is home to UVA's Contemplative Sciences Center (CSC), which creates opportunities that emphasize mind-body practices for wellbeing, insight and compassion in all aspects of life. The mission of CSC is to fuse contemplation, connection and research to enhance flourishing.

Contemplative Commons incorporates design elements to inspire immersive experiences and contemplative practice among students and the broader community. One of the most striking examples is a floor-to-ceiling LED video wall in the first-floor lobby.

Designed by Apeiro Design, the installation is a 15-foot-wide by 24-foot-high Planar® DirectLight® Ultra Series LED video wall with a 1.2 mm pixel pitch. The fine-pitch, high-resolution canvas is used to show dramatic cinematography from award-winning filmmakers, highlighting vivid nature scenes from across the globe.

A Window into the Natural World

Awe-inspiring scenes displayed on the Planar DirectLight Ultra LED video wall—stunning landscapes, whales crashing through the sea, polar bears roaming the ice, and raptors and songbirds in flight—capture the attention of visitors entering the building, according to Daniels. “Together, the visual experience and soundscape convey the power and beauty of nature,” she said. “Throughout the day, students, faculty, staff and community members choose to study and observe the videos, bathing in the sound and vision-scape. The imagery creates a connection to the natural world, sparking wonder and curiosity.”

“This was a case where content drove the design,” said Dan Mei, associate principal of AV Technology with Apeiro Design. “The architects wanted a signature feature in the lobby that would generate interest and draw people in. The idea was to showcase these visuals as a way to complement the building’s natural design aesthetic.”



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Contemplative Sciences Center**

To drive content for the LED video wall, Mei collaborated with Analog Way to provide an image processing solution. “The university required reliable, full-resolution playback of pre-rendered content at nearly three times 4K,” said Seth Teates, senior regional sales manager at Analog Way. “That led to our recommendation of the Picturall Quad Mark II media server. Imagery can be displayed pixel-for-pixel on the LED video wall at its native resolution.”

The result is a striking visual centerpiece that blends seamlessly with the lobby’s contemplative atmosphere. “It’s really about featuring these beautiful images, which are visible from outside the building day and night,” Mei said. “The content delivers an experience that grounds the space and supports the center’s broader initiatives and programming.”



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