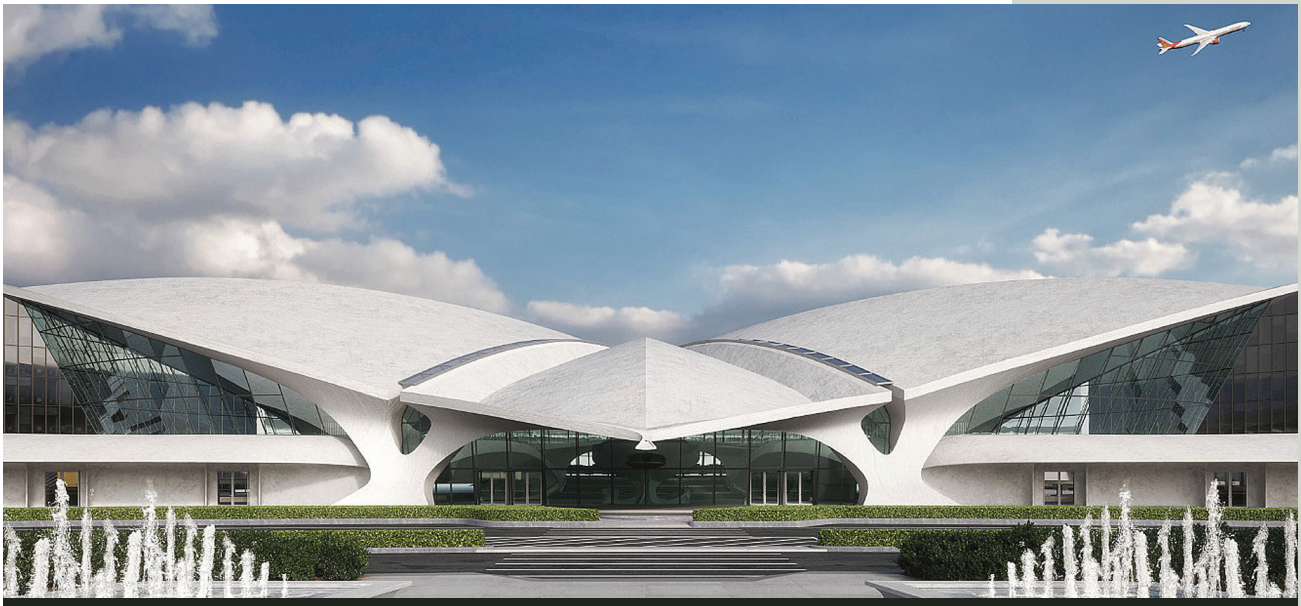
TEXSTYLE

TWA Hotel JFK Airport | Queens, NY



Controlling light levels is key to maintaining our body's circadian rhythm when traveling. The management of privacy and light was a requirement for the design of the 512 guest rooms in this nostalgic hotel which is centered around the TWA Flight Center and boasts view of JFK's busy runways.

The Challenge

The TWA Hotel at JFK International airport occupies a 200,000 ft^2 historic New York facility that was originally designed in 1962 by architect Eero Saarinen and declared a city landmark in 1994. Known as the TWA Flight Center, it served as the terminal for the now defunct Trans World Airline from 1962 until 2001. In 2005 the National Park Service listed the TWA Flight Center on the National Register of Historic Places.

After various failed attempts to use the space, in April 2015 it was confirmed that the empty building would be converted into a hotel and shortly after, the work began. MCR was awarded the project. In the winter of 2016, two new wings were built to house the guest rooms which would be designed to reflect the original style of the landmark TWA Flight Center.

In 2017 Rollease Acmeda Contract worked with Shades by Matiss of Mountainside, NJ and MCR to develop a shading plan within LEED sustainable building requirements for the hotel's 512 guest rooms. This plan needed to meet their vision and address their design challenges – providing traveling guest occupants light management control of their environment.

Many of the TWA Flight Center's original details, such as the custom ceramic floor tiles and 486 variously shaped window panels, were to be incorporated in the design to inspire a 1960s-era vibe, reflecting the flight center's iconic period in history. Brass light fixtures, rotary phones, red carpeted hallways and furniture were some of the details worked into the design, evocative of the original TWA lounge.

Among the design concerns and environmental challenges listed by MCR was the requirement that rooms have modern amenities such as blackout roller shades and multiple-pane soundproof windows. Maximizing privacy and light levels for international guests and realizing energy efficiencies through heat reduction from the windowpanes were top priorities of the design challenge.

Fabric Selection
Texstyle Tempe Blackout

Lift System
- Contract Series One Medium Low Voltage Motorized Shading System
- Custom Fascia Panel
- Custom Blackout Side Channel

Motor
Automate Q2 NM Li-ion

Control Unit
Automate Single Channel Wall Switches

Fabricated By
Shades by Matiss

Installed
County Line

Developer
MCR

Lead Architect
Beyer Blinder Belle

Design Architect
Stonehill Taylor

The Solution

Motorization is the single most effective way to efficiently control large shading systems over several windows. The Automate™ motorization line by Rollease Acmeda was selected for its effectiveness and simplicity in operation. A single gang in-wall keypad permitted control of a bank of windows and afforded a simple, easy-to-use solution for guests to manage light and privacy.

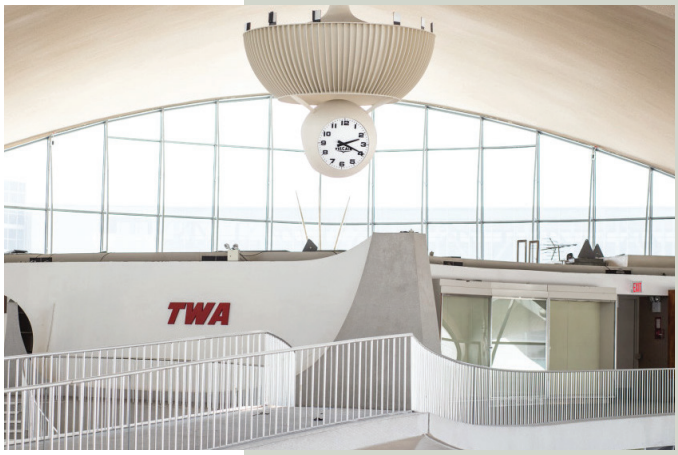
A primary consideration in design today takes into account occupant wellness. There have been many recent studies on the positive effects of sleeping in a dark room. In a recent study published by the American Journal of Epidemiology, they found there is a strong link between mental wellbeing and mood and sleeping conditions. Sleeping in a lit room can elicit a negative mood, similar to that experienced with insufficient sleep levels.

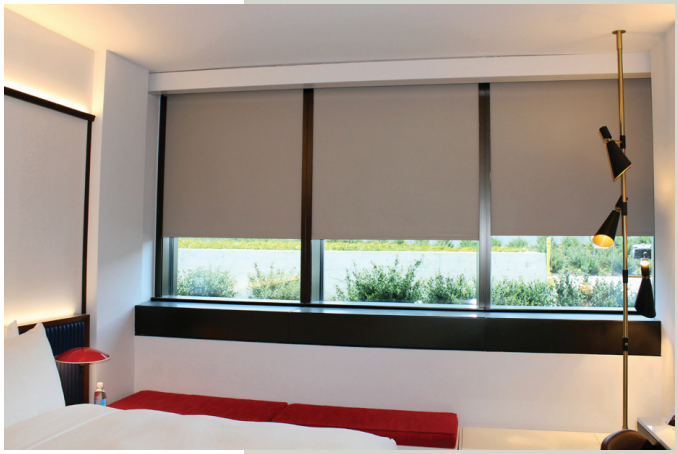
The shade fabric selection was an important consideration, making sure to blend form with function. The Tempe Blackout Collection by Texstyle delivered on performance and aesthetics. Use of a custom color combination allowed for a calming and neutral color facing the room, and a charcoal color facing out. By using a dark color facing the window, the shade looks almost invisible from the exterior of the building. The use of a blackout fabric allows the guest to completely customize the light levels in their room.

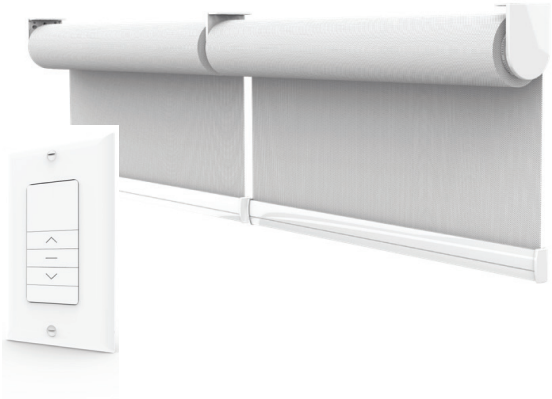
Paired with the fabric was the Contract Series One Medium Low Voltage Battery Powered Shading System; selected for its industry leading simplicity and versatility. This completely customizable system was accompanied by blackout side channels and designed in conjunction with Fabbrica, the curtain wall manufacturer, to add to the light management controls.

The Automate Quiet 2 NM Li-ion Motors were selected due to their rechargeable battery capabilities and quiet operation. The Automate Solar Panel was plugged directly into the motor serving as a battery backup system to assist in recharging and was installed within the shading system for a sleek and discreet finish. To meet budgetary requirements, the Rollease Acmeda Contract collaborated with Shades by Matiss to develop a motor scheme for wire management and to reduce the number of motors used in the project.

The TWA Hotel opened in May 2019 amidst a great deal of anticipation and fanfare.







Texstyle manufactures and distributes the finest quality shade fabrics across the globe. Texstyle USA is a division of Rollease Acmeda, forming one of the largest independent fabric supply businesses in the window covering industry. Texstyle USA is headquartered in Stamford, Connecticut, USA with a state-of-the-art distribution center in Conover, North Carolina.

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