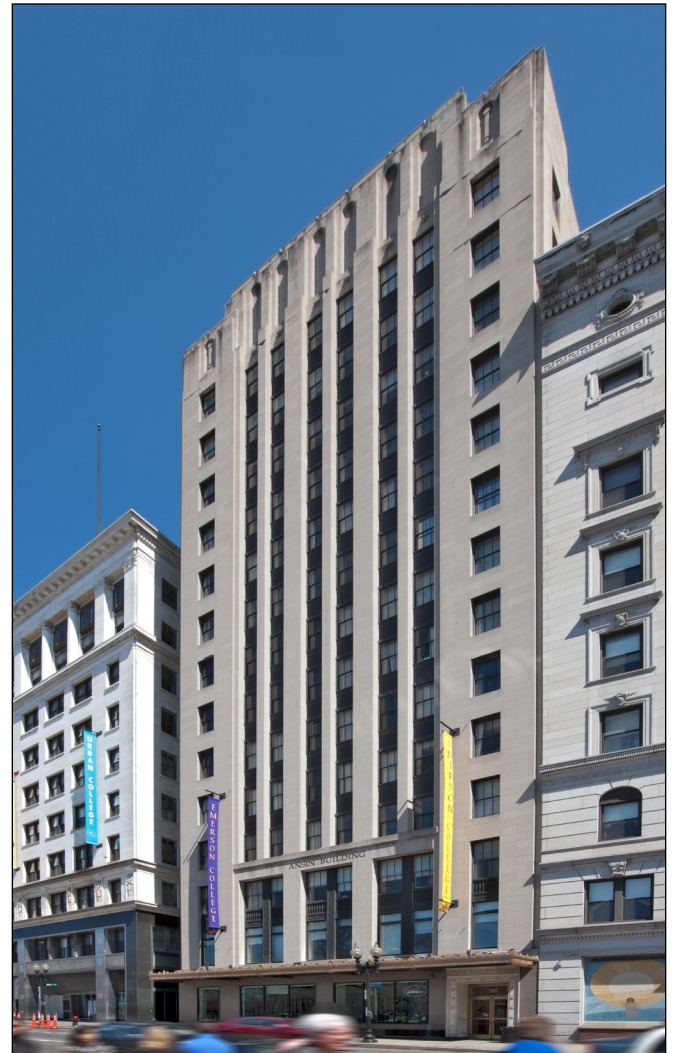


PEARLESCENCE HELPS RADIO STATION CREATE ENTERTAINING ATMOSPHERE

Project:	WERS 88.9 FM at Emerson College
Description:	Updates to the radio station facilities
Location:	Boston, MA
Phone:	617.824.8890
Website:	www.wers.org

Twelve years ago, Darlow Christ Architects helped WERS-FM, the radio station of Emerson College, move from its former campus home in the Boston Back Bay area to the new downtown campus building facing Boston Common. A full service radio station operating out of a storefront and basement, WERS is run by students and has a listening audience that extends far beyond Boston. By 2008, after over a decade of 24/7 activity, the facility was looking a little shopworn. In addition, technological advances in broadcasting made the original station layout slightly obsolete. So they asked Darlow Christ to come back and refresh the look and feel of this unique learning environment.



MORE THAN JUST A RADIO STATION

The importance of WERS-FM to Emerson College is immeasurable. Emerson teaches art and communication in the context of the liberal arts and offers a specialization in radio within its Visual and Media Arts Department. The station is not only a non-stop learning center and performance facility for a hundred or so students and faculty members, it's also a "must-see" stop on college tours taken by potential students and their parents. Peter Darlow, principal of Darlow Christ, says:

"WERS also prides itself on presenting live performances by visiting artists of various musical genres. So looking good was essential to them – even in radio."



Lamin-Art's Pearlescence 2406-T Gold Leaf with Oyster Shield High-Wear Protection™



THREE BIG CHALLENGES. ONE BRILLIANT SOLUTION.

According to Peter Darlow his clients at Emerson gave him several specific challenges. "First, the design had to accommodate both digital and analog broadcasting, requiring us to reconfigure the original workspace to make space for the computer rooms—without radically changing the architecture. Next, student areas had to be as attractive as possible yet able to stand up to constant use as a fully functioning radio station. And, third, the overall look had to reflect the contemporary style of the station and convey a sense of entertainment and fun."

Having successfully specified Lamin-Art's Pearlescence for other projects at Emerson, it was quickly apparent that the laminate would be well suited for the radio station renovation.

"With Pearlescence, the colors evoke a sense of warmth, and the sheen and texture give everything a more contemporary feel."

To brighten the entire space, the design team selected 2406-T Gold Leaf for the millwork, storage cabinets, radio furniture and other areas. The color palette used in the renovation was lighter than the one we used before," Karen Urosevich, Interior Designer, said. To maximize the durability of the surfaces, they chose to add Oyster Shield High-Wear Protection™.

AN APPLAUSE-GENERATING MAKE-OVER

For decades, WERS has been winning awards for its production and programming excellence. Now its studios have a look to match. "With Pearlescence, the station literally has a new sparkle. It's brighter, fresher, and friendlier, and the textural shimmer of the Pearlescence finish adds a sense of depth to the color," says Darlow. "The client is extremely happy and the students are too, because the station now has a look as fresh, new, and interesting as its sound."

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DARLOW CHRIST ARCHITECTS, INC. OVERVIEW

- Description: A mid-size architecture and interior design firm
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