

**TYPE OF PROJECT:**

Interior build-out of a new cafe

**LOCATION:**

Concourse level of a twelve story office building in Shaker Heights, Ohio

**PROJECT SIZE:**

3,500 usable square feet

**PROJECT STATEMENT:**

The café is located on the concourse level of Tower East, Shaker Heights, Ohio. The original building, a twelve story office tower, was designed in 1964 by Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus. The project consists of 3,500 sq. ft. of interior build-out. Front of the house spaces include a seating area, serving counter and self serve area. Back of the house functions include the prep kitchen, walk-in cooler, dry storage and an office.

The existing concourse level space contains no exterior windows due to the slope of the exterior grade. Lighting became extremely important in order to insure the café didn't feel like a basement space. Mimicking a Bauhaus design theme, the color palate is white, black and grey. Accent walls are painted primary colors; red, yellow and blue. Concrete building columns were left exposed. Three gypsum board ceiling planes define the serving counter and table seating areas. These 2" planes hold 26' long horizontal LED flush light fixtures that turn down the wall for an additional 9' until they reach the floor. LED lighting behind the ceiling planes running vertically creates a floating effect from the adjacent wall surface. Ceilings between the gypsum board planes are long planks of white tectum panels that insure the acoustics are controlled while creating a textural contrast.

The original storefront entrance doors and sidelights to the concourse level were retained. Countertops use waterfall edges mimicking the gypsum board ceiling planes. Custom tables have exposed plywood edges with plastic laminate top sheets for easy maintenance. Wooden chairs were selected to relate to the exposed plywood table edges while introducing some natural wood to the space. The flooring in the public area is a recycled rubber.