

Office Lighting | Penta | [d]arc awards 2021





Astella Apartments San Francisco, USA

Astella Apartments is located in the heart of San Francisco's design district. California-based interior design firm CDC Designs' vision and execution demonstrate its attention to the small details that make a significant impact and impressively tie the entire project together. The project embraces the creative spirit of the surrounding neighbourhood while also feeling authentically Californian.

The layered earth tones, organic textures, and artful accents keep things fresh. The balance of natural glazing and where CDC's team artfully decided to use light fixtures are in sync.

California-based lighting design studio and manufacturer, Cerno, is used throughout the project. Cerno's dynamic palette of natural woods, metals, and leatherwork complements CDC's material selection.

"When it comes to lighting selections we treat them as an additional piece of art in the spaces we are designing," says Julie Ann Stark, Partner, President of Design, CDC Designs.

"We made several selections from Cerno lighting because of the modern nature of their fixtures and the subtle illumination that highlights the spaces. They are all also sustainable, eco-friendly and made in the USA, which is reflective of the Astella community ethos. "There's a place for statement pieces in design, but I think the real magic is when a piece of furniture or lighting works so well in a space that it's not a statement and seamlessly fits with the overall vision," adds Bret Englander, Co-founder of Cerno. "This project feels resolved;

it's clear the designers were meticulous and creative, and the result is a welcoming modern environment."

Cerno's Penna linear pendants hang above a swoon-worthy communal kitchen where the clean lines do not compromise the utility of a fully functional place to cook, gather and entertain with fellow residents. Above a full-size white oak pool table is Cerno's expansive 82-ins Vix linear pendant. "The Vix provides a lot of usable light in an unobtrusive form which is why it works so well in voluminous spaces like the Astella club room," says Cerno Co-founder and Director of Design Nick Sheridan.

"When designing new fixtures we try to understand how they will be used; although the designer ultimately decides how they will specify Cerno fixtures, we always strive to create beautiful fixtures that emit a significant amount of usable light," adds Englander. "The designers opted for Cerno's Imber pendant in a distressed brass finish for the conference rooms. "I think conference rooms should be like a nice designer suit, sophisticated, comfortable, but also suggest that this is space where real work is done. CDC's team checked all these boxes." "Inspired by the locale and the striking exterior architecture the interiors provide a respite from the busy and energetic vibe of the neighborhood. Layered earth tones, organic textures, and artful accents keep things fresh, finding appeal in the art of the mix," concludes Stark.

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