

LIGHTING

▶ SHADOW PLAY: LIGHTING YOUR SACRED SPACE

Introduction:

Lighting will play an important part in creating your sacred space. The type of light, amount of light, and location of light all affect the atmosphere you experience.

In this exercise you are going to learn about different kinds of light, the placement of light, the intensity of shade and shadow, and why all of these things are important in developing a sacred space. First we need to learn about the two kinds of light available to you: natural light and artificial light.



Natural light (also called daylight) comes from the sun and provides a perfect white light source. This means we can see all colors well under daylight.



Artificial light is created through electricity.

It is not considered a perfect white light source, meaning that electric lights cast either a warm or cool tone. Incandescent light, which is most commonly found in homes, has a warmer (yellow) quality.



Fluorescent light, which is most commonly found in schools and businesses, has a cooler (blue) quality.

You can create an atmosphere in your sacred spaces by controlling the type and amount of light we allow into the space. The following exercise will help you understand the differences in natural and electric lighting, as well as how the placement of light sources affect the atmosphere of a space.

Exercise:

Supplies:

- two boxes, at least 12"x12"x12." You can either make boxes or use boxes of approximately the same size. The boxes are meant to represent 12'x12'x12' rooms.
- black paper
- white paper
- trace paper, or a similar translucent paper
- standard (non-LED) flashlight
- scissors or utility knife
- a small figurine, or "Flat Stanley" from a previous exercise. Remember, a five inch high figure represents a five foot tall person at this scale, and so on.

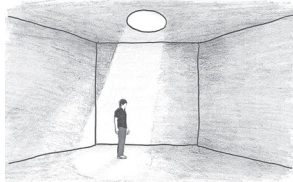
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Step 1: Find or make two boxes at least 12 inches by 12 inches by 12 inches in size.

Step 2: Wrap the inside of one box with white paper, the other with black paper.

Step 3: Cut a 2" diameter hole in one side of each box, and a hole in the top of each box, the same size diameter of your flashlight. If the hole is much larger, you will get too much light in the box from the room.

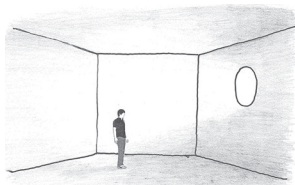


Step 4: Cut a square of white paper that is slightly larger than the top hole in the boxes. First place the white paper square over the top hole of the white box. Shine the flashlight over the covered hole and observe how the space appears. Do the same for the with the white paper and the black box. Notice how the light is different in the light or dark "rooms."

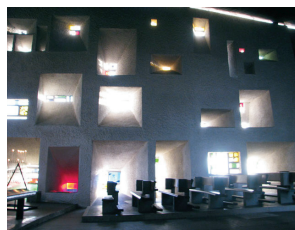
Step 5: Repeat Step 4 with the trace paper. Observe what it is like to have a different amount of light allowed in with a translucent filter.

Step 6: Repeat the previous activity outside. You may want to stand in the bright sun and then in a shady area. Notice the quality of natural light versus artificial light.

For Further Study:



1. Place the small figurine or object in the box with your light hole at the "ceiling". Imagine the object representing a person in a room. Place the object in different parts of the box (in the center, in the corner, etc.). Even try rotating the box so that the light hole is on a "wall" instead of on the "ceiling." Think of how location of lighting in relation to the location of a person might affect your sacred space design.



2. Can you think of any other interesting light sources or locations? Maybe another filter such as a piece of colored paper? Test your creative ideas!

