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Illusory skylights create revolutionary restaurant décor

Most people agree that it would be great to have a clear blue and sunny sky above when you eat. Now, a company titled The Sky Factory offers a product that accomplishes this effect for restaurant environments.

Fairfield, IA, July 21 – Sky Factory SkyCeilings™ are versatile, visually engaging tools for individuals who wish to modify the experience of interior spaces. These realistic illusory skies bring the influence of nature and a sense of openness to any restaurant environment.

The effectiveness of Sky Factory illusions lies in their ability to replicate the many subtle stimuli of real sky. Carefully controlled light temperature, accurate cloud pattern, color and correct perspective, all interact with our habits of perception to produce an experience of “real” sky. SkyCeilings, installed in standard ceiling grid systems, function as “virtual” skylights.

Luminous Virtual Windows™ – The Sky Factory wall product is a thin edge-lit system that is set into walls and uses high-resolution photographic images of landscapes. Luminous Virtual Windows are designed to create the feeling of looking at nature through a window. Using a pair or series of windows enhances the “window” illusion.



The mechanics behind the illusion of Sky Ceilings, Sky Factory SkyCeilings, like any illusion, operate by providing sensory input that confuses the process of cognition. An important component of SkyCeilings is the incorporation of **daylight-balanced 6500 Kelvin light**, the same light used to treat seasonal affective disorder (SAD). The Sky Factory uses this light because the senses and mind do not distinguish between this (artificial) light and real daylight. In addition, the high-CRI (color rendering index) T5 fluorescent or LED sources illuminate the image pigments and environmental colors in a uniform and accurate way.



Sky Factory patented SkyTile Elevator further contributes to the illusion. “Elevators” are aluminum extrusions that transform the standard ceiling grid into a structure that, because of perceptual habits, looks to the mind like the extrusions used to support a real skylight. Again, by modifying the cognitive process, the mind is tricked into “knowing” that what is actually on all sides of such a structural grid must be “beyond” – like a real sky.



To more thoroughly understand the mechanics and physiological impact of illusory skies in built environments, The Sky Factory is now engaging in a program of cooperative scientific research.