

Lincoln Center

New Public Spaces and Amenities

DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS

Columbus Avenue Entrance: In order to create a more dramatic and functional threshold to what is Lincoln Center's front door, the primary entryway along Columbus Avenue has been reconfigured by expanding the original staircase between the Plaza and the street. The 170-foot-wide **Grand Stair** creates a graceful and visually elegant approach directly from Columbus Avenue onto Josie Robertson Plaza. The seven stairs, each tread five feet deep, feature informational LED text as part of Lincoln Center's innovative 16-channel InfoScape. Twin flanking **ramps** that are seamlessly integrated into the design of the Grand Stair offer additional ADA-compliant access, from the street to Plaza level. The ramps are covered by **sleek glass canopies** that project dramatically from the arcades of Avery Fisher Hall and the David H. Koch Theater, providing arriving visitors with protection during inclement weather. **Lush entrance greens** are located to the side of each ramp. The original staircase was 115 feet-4 inches wide by 17 feet-1 inch deep and the new staircase measures 171 feet wide by 40 feet deep.

Columbus Avenue Drop-off: The service road that ran between Columbus Avenue and Josie Robertson Plaza has been dropped below the street to concourse level, and renamed the **Roslyn and Elliot Jaffe Family Drive**. The original inner roadway had two lanes at 21 feet-4 inches total in width, while the new inner roadway has two lanes going in with multiple lanes, 28 feet-eight inches wide, beneath the stair narrowing to a single lane upon exit.

Cars enter at 65th Street, and travel south to a covered entrance area shaped by the new Grand Stair above. Underneath the Grand Stair, this multi-lane service road and new concourse entrance provide a convenient and weatherproof location for patron drop-offs and departures. From this area, at the **Bruce and Robbi Toll Porte-cochère**, visitors have access to stairs, escalators, and an elevator leading up to Josie Robertson Plaza or into newly renovated, clearly defined concourse corridors.

Visitors arriving at Lincoln Center by subway will find a new pedestrian corridor to the concourse-level roadway. Travelers along this passageway have easy access to stairs, escalators, and an elevator leading to Josie Robertson Plaza and surrounding Lincoln Center venues.

Urban Grove: The **Charles B. Benenson Grove** at 62nd Street, across from the David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center, creates a new green space and enhances the visitor experience. The 3,500-square-foot "urban forest" adjacent to the David H. Koch Theater features approximately 34 quaking aspens and elegant granite benches for the public. Its thoughtful design softens the east façade of the David H. Koch Theater and highlights this important access point for the many visitors who arrive at Lincoln Center

from the south. The grove also expands the number of places for students and visitors to sit and relax at Lincoln Center.

Public Lawn:

Joining landscape and architecture, the gently contoured **Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Lawn** is an elevated, 7,203 square foot expanse of public green that slopes gracefully toward **Paul Milstein Pool and Terrace**. Technically described as a hyperbolic paraboloid, Illumination Lawn brings another dimension of visual interest to Hearst Plaza—its texture contrasting with the surrounding materials, and its unexpected shape setting off the linear quality of the buildings around it. Designed to provide a tranquil, verdant oasis for students, artists, and visitors, the green serves as a dynamic gathering space, as well as the roof of a pavilion housing the new destination restaurant *Lincoln* overseen by executive chef Jonathan Benno, the **Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center**, and Lincoln Center offices.

The geometry of the roof is derived using straight structural elements that are slightly rotated relative to one another. The result is an undulating rectangular surface with two high corners diagonally opposed from one another and two low corners on the opposite diagonal corners. The slopes range from flat to 18 degrees.

The grass, a turf type tall fescue with a little bit of Kentucky Bluegrass blended in, is held in place by a combination of geoweb and grass roots. The geoweb is a perforated polyethylene cellular mat that is stretched across the roof surface and attached to the building perimeter with stainless steel tendons. The geoweb cells are filled with growing media and then planted with sod. The roots from the sod will, over time, grow to interlock with the geoweb. The growing media varies across the surface of the roof but averages about 9" across the entire roof. It was selected for its resiliency to foot traffic and the fact that it is greener than other varieties during its dormant season.

There is an irrigation system that works in concert with a moisture mat provided beneath the media to hold moisture during the drier times of the year. Conversely, the growing media is quick draining and sits atop a drainage mat. This prevents excessive moisture from sitting within the system after heavy rain falls. Grass depends on light and water to thrive. Shade is not an issue at this location; the surrounding buildings on the Lincoln Center campus are relatively low. A series of check dams that redirect subsurface runoff to a series of strategically located drain points allow equal distribution throughout the lawn. In addition, the irrigation system has seven zones and can be manipulated to provide water where it is needed.

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