Daylighting Analysis of Neuberger Hall

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With the renovation of Neuberger Hall, one of the most highly used academic buildings on the PSU campus, it is crucial to balance the need for maximizing daylighting potential with the long term costs. With various design elements being considered it is necessary to understand the existing daylighting conditions to better enable us to provide effective and efficient design recommendations. Daylighting design plays a critical role in the quality of the learning and working spaces provided at Neuberger, as well as the effect on student comfort and productivity.

The atrium cut maximizes floor area and takes full advantage of the sun angles throughout the year. The 68 degree cut corresponds to the Summer Solstice noon sun while the 45 degree cut matches the Equinoxes to balance Summer and Winter insolation. The steps allow the noon sun to reach the basement throughout the year. The atrium is in the middle of the floorplate to ensure the areas of the floor get similar insolation. The minimum width needs to be between 21’6” - 27’0” to allow the adjacent spaces in the top story to receive full daylight for more than half of the year during working hours.

The west courtyard is designed to maximize the daylight while still retaining adequate floor area. Hacker was interested in making a large cut in the west facade in an effort to bring more daylight into the building, but we quickly realized how drastically it reduced the usable floor area. We designed a second option that still brought light into the space, but also allowed us to keep the maximum amount of usable floor space.