

Machinal

Lighting Concept Package

Lighting Designer: Madeleine Reid

LIGHTING CONCEPT

Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal* follows the life of a Young Woman, Helen through episodes - clips of large moments in Helen's life which then lead to her demise. Throughout the play, Helen faces difficulty with submitting to the societal expectations of women versus men. Because of this, the world is cold and distant to her while she struggles to stray from the repetition of life for a breath of freedom. In a dark, cold, and distant world, Helen is isolated and suffocated by those around her because of her need to "be free" and live life on her own accord.

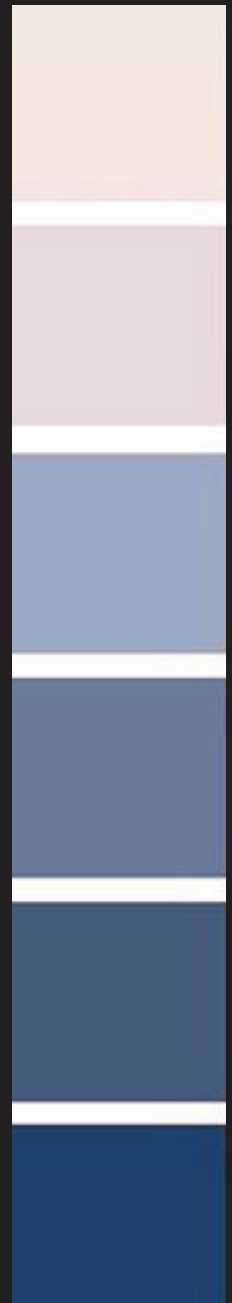
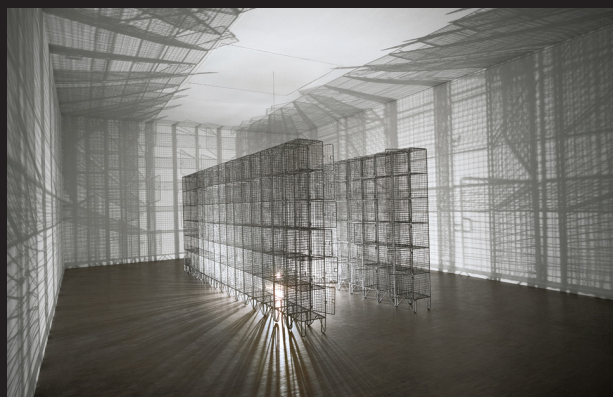
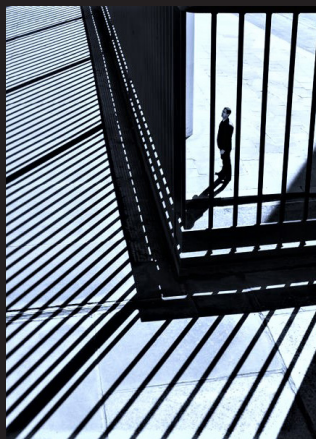
In the office of where Helen works, everything is crisp and precise like a well-oiled machine. A fluorescent, blue-green glow emanates throughout the office as if the workers are under a microscope being watched. The cold glow is cut through by rays of sunlight piercing through the window on the one side of the office, adding a bit of stale warmth to the room. Once Jones enters and talks to Helen, the room shifts to become more lively - Jones has broken the cycle, at least for Helen. Once Jones leaves, Helen is left to her thoughts and she is cast the rays of the sun left behind as the workday continues behind her.

The hotel room is dark, with the only light coming through the window and bathroom door. Vibrant red, blue, green, and orange neon light from the casino can be seen through the window, but doesn't seem to creep past the windowpanes. The soft white light of the bathroom casts shadows across the room, accenting the bodies of the newlyweds and showing the distance Helen is trying to put between them. It feels claustrophobic as Helen is becoming more and more suffocated by the societal expectations. It is clear from the shadows that no matter how hard Helen tries to move away from Jones, the distance will close.

The bar is dark and musty. This place seems more relaxed than the rest, as it is where Helen is able to get a breath of freedom from her marriage. A sepia tone isolates the three tables, becoming brighter to shift the focus from one table discussion to the other. Surrounding the three tables is darkness that is possibly filled by a deep blue purple to create the atmosphere of the speakeasy.

The courtroom is filled with a straw-colored warmth - perhaps this is by the light coming through the window mixed with the uneasiness in the room. There is an uneasy stillness in the air which suffocates the room. However, Helen is enveloped in the peach warmth of the sunlight which lingers and resembles her feeling of freedom. As the trial ensues, the room grows darker with the accusations against Helen. By the time Helen confesses to murder, she is isolated from the jurors. The isolation is not stark or distant, but rather full of relief as she is finally "free".

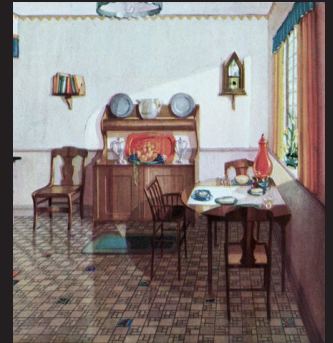
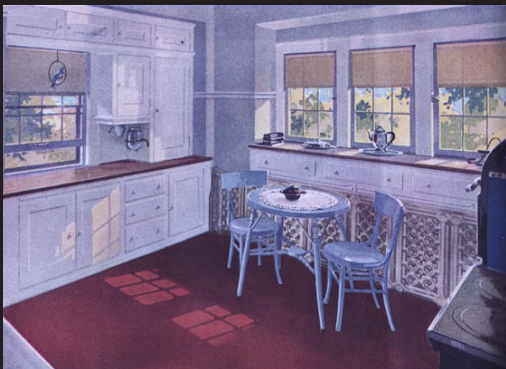
INSPIRATION



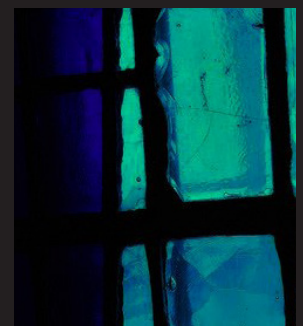
To Business



At Home



Honeymoon



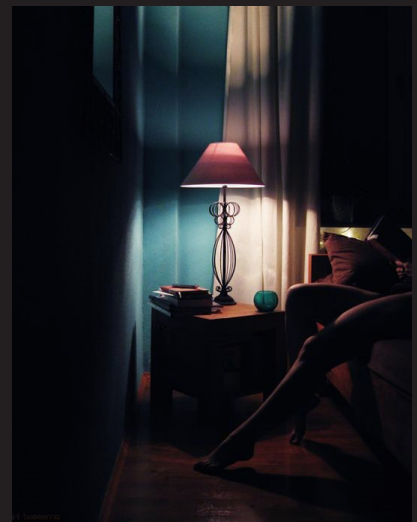
Maternal



Prohibited



Intimate



Domestic



The Law



A Machine



Silhouette

