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Project 4: Energy Program  
International Rescue Committee Regional Offices

While there are over 12 million refugees worldwide, the United States only resettles 70,000 each year (U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants). American society must become more involved in global humanitarian issues by facilitating the resettlement of refugees in the United States. A new regional office in Chicago for the International Rescue Committee will provide more opportunities for refugees in the United States.

The purpose of this facility is to ease the transition of refugees from one lifestyle to another. Perhaps the building can reflect this change by taking design inspirations from sources in conflict with its context, yet transition these ideas into the region. While the space is meant to facilitate transition, it is not meant to erase the past and replace it with the future. There must be a balance between what comes before and what continues after. The issue of refugees is a global problem; therefore the design of this facility should reflect its international role. If we look beyond our borders, we will find a world of experimentation in architecture that we have abandoned. How can these global examples of breaking out of the box influence a space which exemplifies the spirit of new?

This project will be funded through government grants and private donations. Because of this, the operating costs of the institution will need to be kept low. One strategy for reducing these costs is through energy efficiency. The lighting fixtures will be compact fluorescent or LED with daylight sensors. In the bathrooms and storage areas, the lights will also be on motion sensors. The temperature will be kept consistent only through working hours. The south facing windows will have shading devices with light shelves to distribute natural ambient lighting throughout the space.

In Chicago, where this building is to be located, there is a city sponsored initiative for green roofs. Having a green roof will provide better insulating properties to the space.

The walls will also be insulated and the windows will be double pane. Because of the large temperature range in Chicago, reducing heating and cooling loads through insulation has a significant effect on energy consumption.

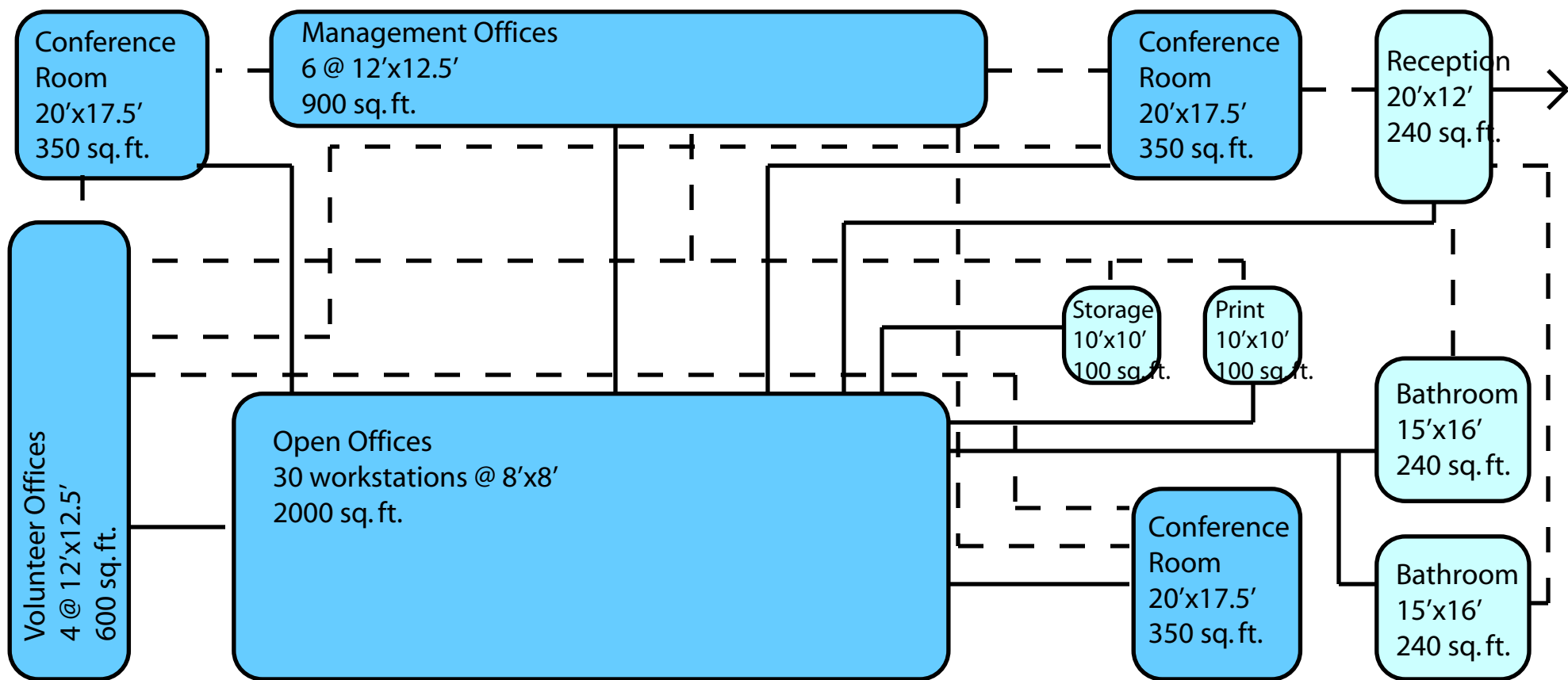
In addition to these minor adjustments, the building will also utilize wind turbines. As the “Windy City,” Chicago has the ability to generate large amounts of energy from wind. The building will use vertical wind turbines on the roof to capture this abundant natural energy source. If the wind turbines generate more power than the building needs, it could feed this energy back into the city-wide system for credit.

#### Works Cited

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, 2007 World Refugee Survey, Oct.-Nov. 2007 < <http://www.refugees.org/article.aspx?id=1941>>

# International Rescue Committee Regional Offices

Space	Area (sq.ft.)	Quantity	Total Area (sq.ft.)	Height (ft.)	Activities	Occupants	Lighting	Schedule	Temperature
Management Offices	150	6	900	10	Computer, Phone Calls, Individual Meetings	6	High Task/Low Ambient	8:00-5:00	Small Range
Volunteer Offices	150	4	600	10	Computer, Phone Calls, Individual Meetings	4	High Task/Low Ambient	8:00-5:00	Small Range
Conference Rooms	350	3	1050	10	Group Meeting, Conference Calls	45	Low Task/High Ambient	8:00-5:00	Small Range
Print/Copy	100	1	100	10	Printing, Copying, Faxing, Document Assembly	3	Low Task/High Ambient	8:00-5:00	Small Range
Storage	100	1	100	10	Storage of Files, Office Materials	2	Low Ambient/Low Task	Motion	Large Range
Open Office	2000	1	2000	12	Workstations for Computer, Phone Calls	30	High Task/Low Ambient	8:00-5:00	Small Range
Reception/Waiting	240	1	240	12	Entry, Visitor Waiting, Reception	5	Low Task/High Ambient	8:00-5:00	Small Range
Bathrooms	240	2	480	10		4	High Task/Low Ambient	Motion	Small Range



 Support Function

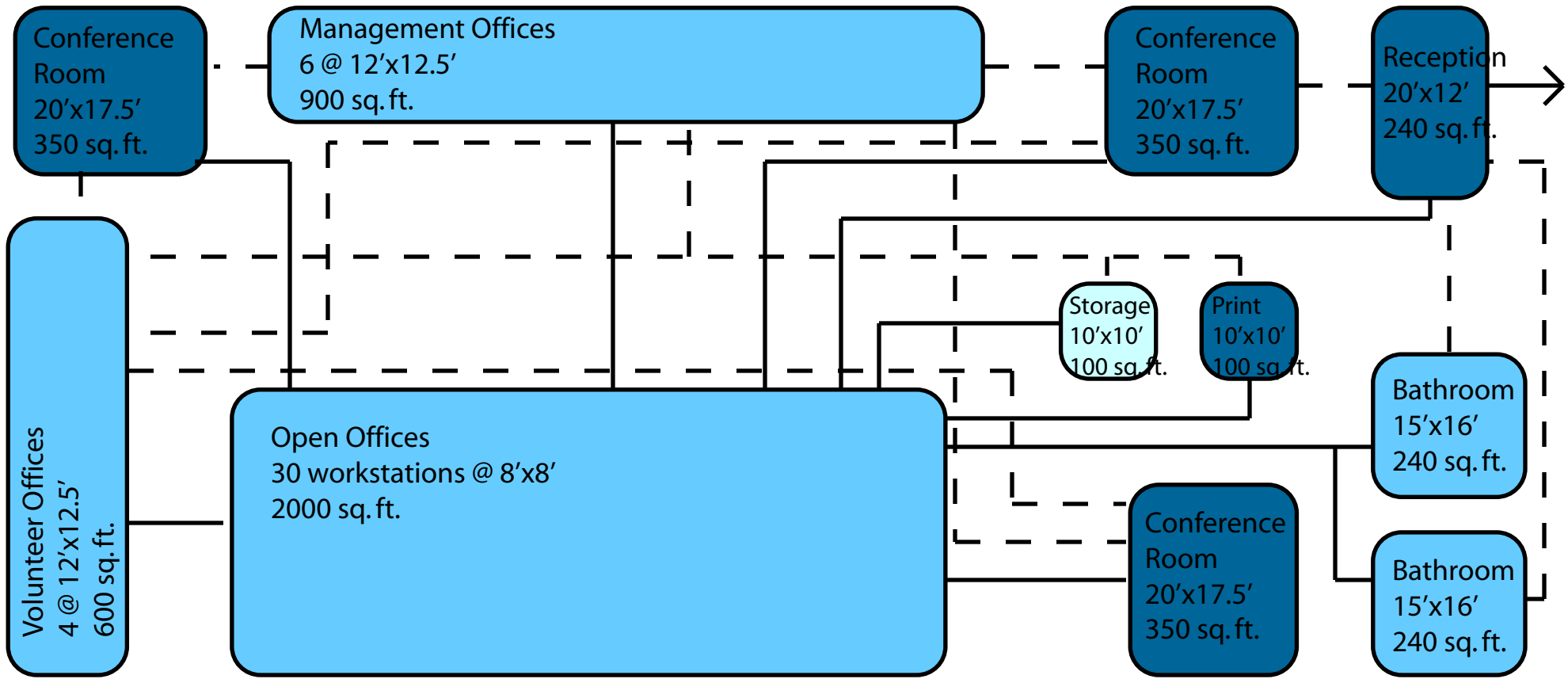
 Primary Function


 Indirect Connection


 Direct Connection

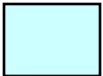
International Rescue Committee Regional Offices

Function Diagram



 Low Task/High Ambient

 High Task/Low Ambient

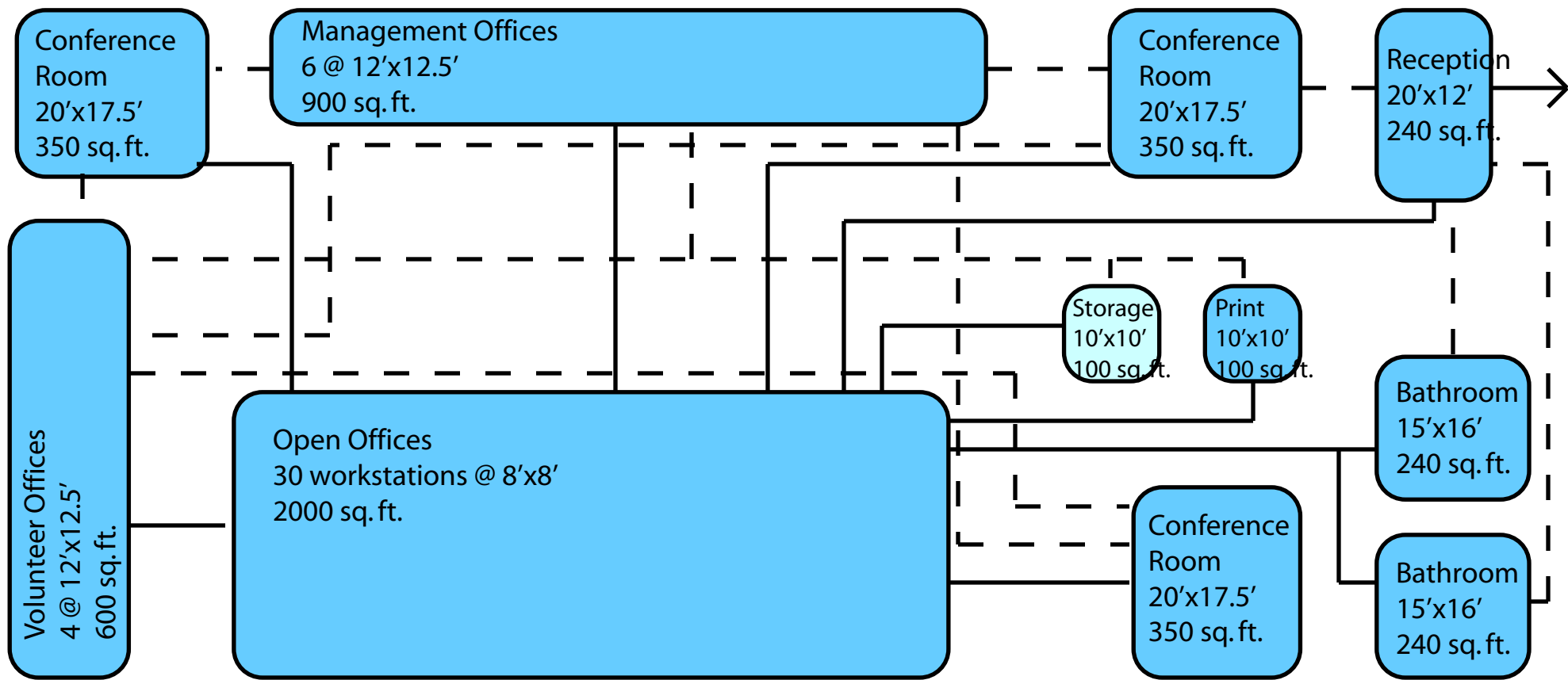
 Low Task/Low Ambient

 Indirect Connection

 Direct Connection

## International Rescue Committee Regional Offices

## Lighting Diagram



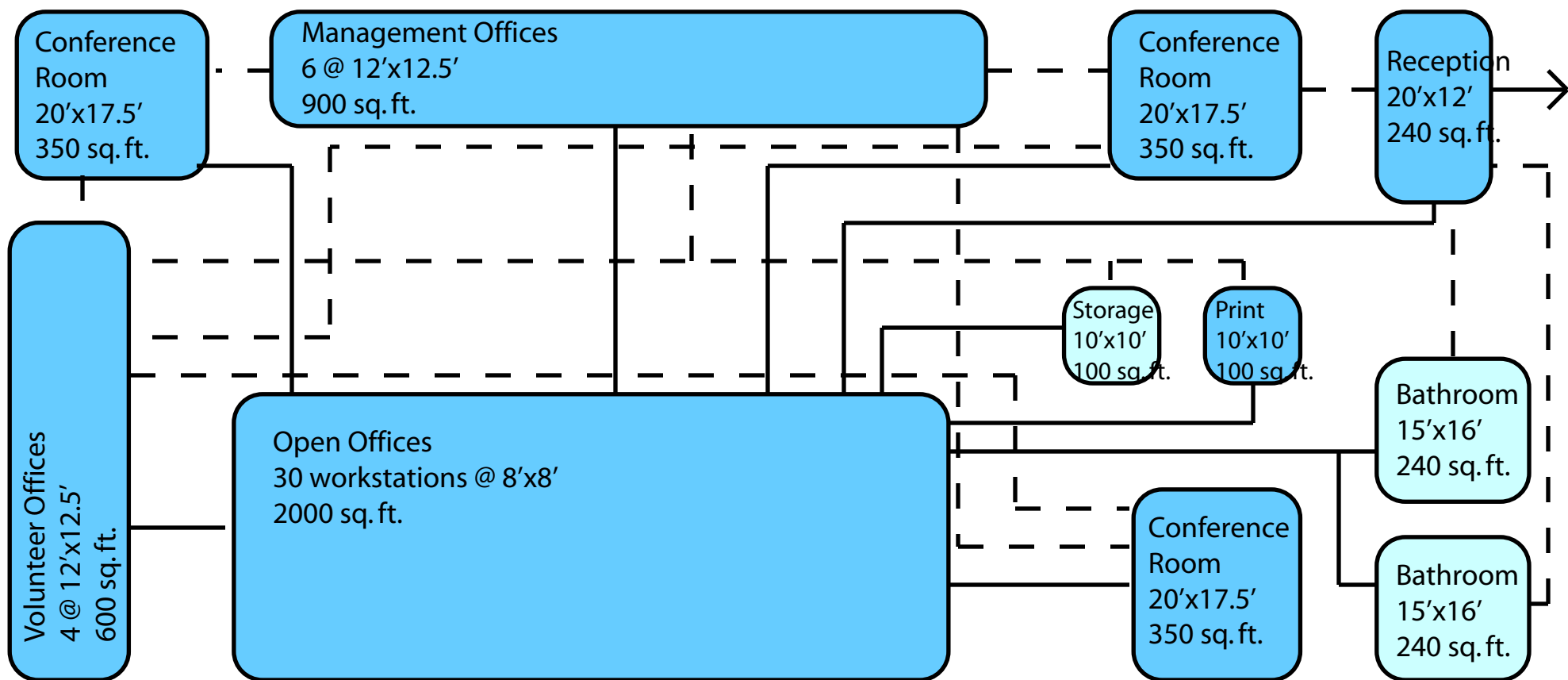
 Small Range

 Large Range

 Indirect Connection

 Direct Connection

# International Rescue Committee Regional Offices Temperature Diagram



8:00-5:00

8:00-5:00, motion controlled lights

Indirect Connection

Direct Connection

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Schedule Diagram