



CITATION

for Transformation of a Space Through Lighting

599 Lexington Avenue Ground Floor Upgrades

New York, NY

Tillotson Design Associates

Suzan Tillotson, Mitul Parekh, and Shan Jiang

Boston Properties wanted to upgrade the existing public spaces at 599 Lex to appeal to new, young tenants, while establishing a strong street presence. Tillotson’s suspended vertical fins glow with appropriate luminosity, filling the lobby volume with light and blending with the architecture by connecting visually to the existing fins on the glass façade.

Previously, the 50 ft high glass façade showed reflections during the daytime and evening; and the north face with its extended canopy limited daylight penetration, exacerbating the daytime contrast problem. Complicating matters further, the rear wall features a large, commissioned bas-relief that needed to stand out.

Edge-lit with linear, dimmable LED fixtures at top, the clear glass fins have translucent frit that lends a diaphanous appearance. There is visibility through the fins, creating a fresh take on the concept of a luminous ceiling. To punch the polished stone floor with light and add elements of sparkle, a grid of LED pendants, in a de-materializing polished chrome finish, are interspersed between the fins. This pendant vocabulary extends into the lower-height elevator lobbies.

Carefully placed framing projectors with custom gobos created in-situ make the art wall pop, even during the daytime.

ARCHITECT
FXFOWLE Architects
Bruce Fowle
Justin Shaw

OWNER
Boston Properties

PHOTOGRAPHY
Tillotson Design Associates
Chris Cooper



“With lighting employed as the main tool to transform the space, the process was highly collaborative. Though the basic lighting concepts were developed by the lighting designer, the placement, sizing, and detailing of all lighting elements were determined together with the architect. This modernized lobby provides a unique, lively, and luminous experience not only to building entrants, but also to outside pedestrians, even on a bright, sunny day.”

— Mitul Parekh