



Award of

MERIT

Saks Fifth Avenue at Brookfield Place

New York, NY

Lighting Workshop

Doug Russell and Courtney Yip



As the retail anchor of Lower Manhattan’s rejuvenated shopping, dining, and cultural arts complex, the new Saks Fifth Avenue at Brookfield Place New York reasserts itself as the ultimate luxury shopping destination. A series of dramatic, but cohesive design elements differentiate the space from other retailers, creating a more fluid and curated shopping experience. The lighting was envisioned as soft wash layered across a limited palette of architectural forms and materials. The goal was to present the luxury product collections against delicately lighted backdrops, while attenuating the visual noise of a product-focused lighting installation.

The heart of the design lies in the striking rotunda, highlighted by architectural coves and enveloped by a two-story illuminated “veil” of brass fins, framing views of lower Manhattan from the store’s interior and radiating a warm glow outward at night.

Delicate, indirectly illuminated reveals in the plaster ceiling, obscured accent lighting, and carefully detailed cove lighting preserve a clean, crisp ceiling and support the simple and tectonic visual language. At the center of the shoe salon, two 14 ft–diameter hemispherical custom chandeliers are suspended below a mirrored ceiling. The effect is the illusion of an infinite array of radiating orbs.

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