New Museum for Contemporary Art

The architects for this contemporary art museum envisioned the galleries as bright, white sculptural boxes flooded with light and clear glass skylights allowing views to the sky. The lighting was a challenge when the architect asked that each gallery be illuminated to a minimum of 60 footcandles. The exact spacing and quantity of the fixtures was based on both the building module, art requirements and achieving the lighting level in the lowest 18'-6" gallery. The custom removable fluorescent "trackhead" was designed to be refined, minimal, locally switched and plugged into busway, allowing ultimate flexibility for installations from video to sensitive works.

Lighting Designers: Tillotson Design Associates, Suzan Tillotson, David Burya, Stasa Celigoj, Vive Chia-Yu Lin
Architect: Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa, Florian Idenburg
Owner: New Museum for Contemporary Art
Photography: Iwan Baan Portsmuide

I’m very pleased that the design passes muster with the toughest critic, the museum’s chief curator, Richard Flood, who feels that the fluorescent is wonderful for the art; very honest and direct, much like the museum’s art.