Soaring toward the stratosphere, the stainless steel spires of the United States Air Force Memorial evoke the precision and weightlessness of flight. Reinforcing this architectural agility, illumination appears to emanate from within the monument itself, caressing the slender forms and bursting into the night sky. Lighting the memorial was a highly technical challenge. Each spire has a different footprint and height, presents a small surface area, and sways up to eighteen inches in the wind. Lights concealed behind perimeter walls are calibrated to illuminate each arc in a precise gradient, culminating in a burst of light at the tip.

Lighting Designers: Office for Visual Interaction (OVI), Jean Sundin, Enrique Peiniger
Architect: Jim Freed
Owner: New Museum for Contemporary Art
Photography: Thomas Mayer