Even James Gamble Rogers (original architect) didn’t get to see it so clearly,” Mr. Helpern remarks. “We knew it was a beautiful space, even spectacular, but still the results took all of us by surprise.” —David Helpern

The challenge was to restore the dark and dreary Collegiate-Gothic nave to its original 1930s splendor, while making the old and new indistinguishable. New 2700K retrofit LED PAR38 and MR16 lamps, concealed within balconies, restored wrought iron chandeliers, and new picture lights illuminate the details of the elaborate ceilings. Retrofit LED A-lamps and diffusion film were added to restored sconces to soften their brightness and reveal the natural variation of the mica shades. Hand-fabricated chandeliers, using original materials and methods, were added to the north aisle. Pendants and card-catalog fixtures at the south aisle were refurbished and relamped with LEDs to balance daylight from restored skylights. The connected lighting load is 64% below ASHRAE.

“The design shows respect for the architecture while using new technology to intelligently restore the lighting.” —Lumen Awards Jury