The unique interaction of light and glass was a key design driver for this new contemporary glass art gallery. Because glass artwork is generally not light-sensitive, Arup designers exploited higher light levels and daylighting in ways that are not typical for museums. Daylight changes in brightness, distribution and color throughout the day and throughout the year in this Northeastern climate, showcasing artwork under ideal conditions while maintaining a dialogue with the exterior. A thoughtfully designed roof and ceiling system allows tempered daylight into the space, while an integrated electric lighting system with hidden uplighting and elegant custom-designed spotlights subtly highlights the artwork as daylight fades.

The primary ceiling elements are concrete beams running the length of the gallery. They diffuse daylight and veil the skylight and track lighting systems above. The roof system comprises a series of hipped (pyramid) skylights. Advanced daylighting calculations determined the appropriate pattern of clear, diffuse and opaque panels to achieve desired daylight levels. While most of the glazing contains a diffusing interlayer, a small number of clear glass panels allow direct sunlight to enter. Sunbeams animate the space and create special moments when the glass artworks are brilliantly highlighted.