The design of this 280,000 sqft financial services headquarters, a vertical campus encompassing eight floors in Hudson Yards, centers around the idea that an inspiring environment will encourage a new collaborative dynamic. Employees take breaks, talk, look at art, and watch news together. These modes of coming together are intended to stimulate successful new business strategies. Lighting Workshop developed the lighting design to allow focus, discovery, and collaboration tasks to coexist seamlessly. The composition of diffuse washes of light, bold feature lighting gestures; and intimate, low-level illumination humanizes the large-scale work environment.

Throughout, every effort was taken to soften the effects of overhead light sources. Architecturally integrated indirect sources illuminate private offices, while coffered wood ceilings bring warmth to the trading floors. A continuous light slot with a backlighted, stretched-PVC lens washes the textured core wall on each floor, featuring the client’s collection of modern art. On the main reception floor, custom fiberglass ceilings fitted with indirect sources mimic natural light filtering through.

In some collaborative spaces, contrast creates drama. Meeting rooms at the building’s perimeter feature luminous ceilings set into a darker surround, creating visual impact while maintaining soft, comfortable lighting and minimizing reflection in large media walls.