



Award of  
**MERIT**

**Vessel**  
New York, NY

**L'Observatoire International**  
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Nestled among glass towers on the edge of Manhattan stands the Vessel. With 154 flights of stairs, 2,500 steps, and 80 landings, the interactive monument serves as the heart of Hudson Yards, the largest private development in the US. Establishing the lattice structure as the social centerpiece of the complex, as well as an intimate space for reflection, the lighting design highlights a duality of views.

From the exterior, it amplifies the warm glow of the Vessel's polished, copper-colored steel skin. Circadian day-to-night transition scenes enhance the natural changes in daylight. As the sun sets, the Vessel emits a warm glow, accentuating each stair incline and landing, while at night it turns blue, illuminating the Vessel as a sculptural beacon on the waterfront.

From the inside, the lighting accentuates the structure's gray palette, reinforcing its position within the urban context. A balance of concealed and revealed fixtures, such as in the handrails, creates uninterrupted views over the city and water. The lighting heightens the experience of continually shifting perspectives, as visitors navigate through. Climbing up and down the stairs creates a personal rhythm in each visitor, a reverberation that is echoed in the balance of light and dark.

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