

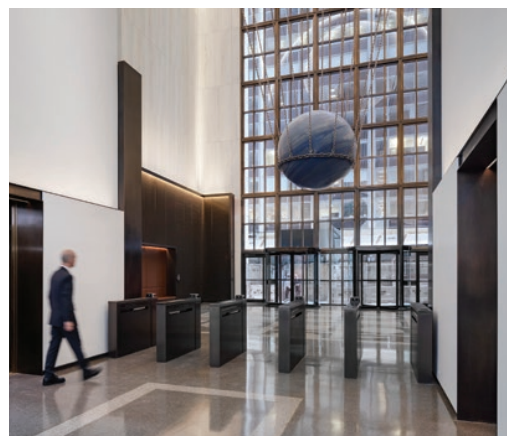
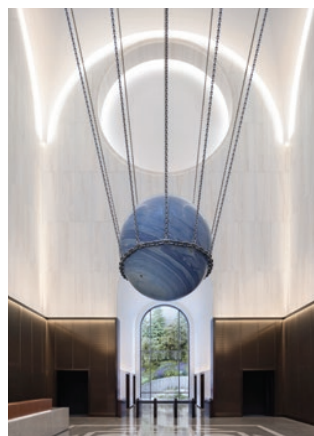
Award of MERIT

550 Madison Avenue Lobby

New York, NY

KGM Architectural Lighting

Stacie Dinwiddy, Martin van Koolbergen, Stacey Bello, and Dorothy Underwood



“To bring new light to the re-imagined lobby of an iconic Philip Johnson tower was a career privilege. Our challenge was to conceal all light fixtures within integrated details, a true example of our company motto: Crafting Architecture with Light.”

—Stacie Dinwiddy

The KGM team primarily sought to complement the volume of this iconic tower transformation. The lighting design for the soaring ground-floor lobby emphasizes the ethereal, pensive quality of the space while honoring its simple, classic forms and materials. By mindfully concealing light sources, surfaces and edges radiate light from integrated linear sources. Close coordination met installation challenges presented by long continuous runs and limited existing access space. No distractions compromise the visitors’ experience.

In deference to the original design, the oculus was preserved and re-illuminated with tunable-white sources to marry the natural light entering throughout the day. The suspended, 24-ton blue-marble sphere art installation centers the space, and spotlights discretely concealed inside corner corbels highlight the sphere. The illusion is of a piece of sky brought down to ground level. Lighting this piece not only perfectly renders the form, but also the terrazzo floor, which is made from the crushed pink granite that originally adorned the walls.

The dynamism of the space is translated throughout the day via the tunable-white programmed control system. The amount of natural light that penetrates the space from north and south was fundamental in the approach to electrical lighting.

“The electric lighting creates a poetic and sublime space, adding a requisite softness that contrasts nicely against the hard and heavy materials. Each lighting component has been carefully thought out and well executed.”

—Beth Turomsha, Schuler Shook, 2022 Lumen Awards Judge

ARCHITECTS

Gensler

Philippe Paré
Megan Radebaugh
Morgan Stackman
Michelle Neary

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

AAI Architects, P.C.

PROJECT MANAGER

RXR Realty

OWNER

Olayan Group

PHOTOGRAPHY

James Ewing / Gensler