



Award of

EXCELLENCE

Little Island

New York, NY

Fisher Marantz Stone

Enrique Garcia-Carrera, Paul Marantz, and Miyoung Song-Carroll



On the cold and rainy evening of April 18, 1912, the steamship *Carpathia* returned to dock at Pier 54, its decks crammed with surviving passengers of the ill-fated *Titanic*. Now, on the site of Pier 54, the original iron entrance of the pier survives and through it arrive new generations eager to discover the pleasures of Little Island.



A daring public-private partnership, Little Island rises from a vision to replace a decaying pier, imagining a new public space for Manhattan. The result is a new public park providing an immersive art and nature experience. The brief: create an intimate yet safe environment, with subtle landscape and structure highlights utilizing inconspicuous sources. Topography and plants glow from concealed luminaires.

Visitors first notice the softly glowing park from the esplanade. The historic pier's archway acts as entry beacon leading to the luminous bridge and concrete "tulips" structure. Arriving, one can explore luminous pathways, experience a performance, or marvel at unparalleled vistas of city and river, unobstructed thanks to shielded lighting.

Choosing highlights and shadows creates a dynamic nighttime setting. At the entry, lights change color for special events, while all others remain warm-white in consideration of nighttime adaptation and the serene environment.

Many fixtures were custom-designed to meet the client's high expectations and the harsh New York Harbor environment. Existing pole lights were not sufficiently inconspicuous, necessitating bespoke design of slender, multiple-shielded-head poles. At the performance venues, each fixture is wirelessly dimmable via a sophisticated control system.

A demonstration of how state-of-the-art lighting can achieve a new visual experience.

ARCHITECTS

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