

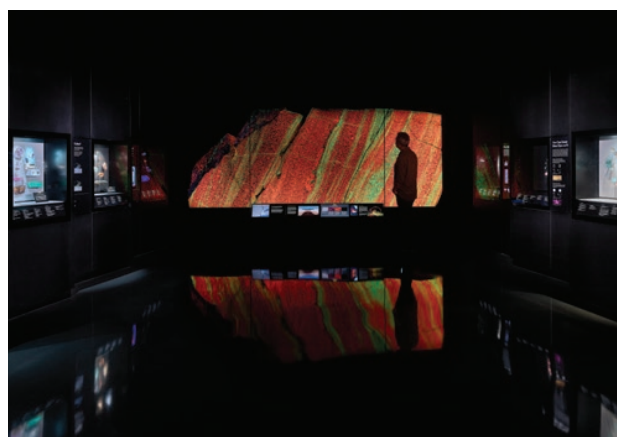


Award of EXCELLENCE

Allison and Roberto Mignone Halls of Gems and Minerals
New York, NY

Renfro Design Group

Richard Renfro, Jenny Stafford, Matt Caraway, Aylin Aydin, Angie Ohman, and Paola Bernal



A welcome part of New York City's reopening, the redesigned Mignone Halls of Gems and Minerals at the American Museum of Natural History feature more than 5,000 specimens from 98 countries within a spacious 11,000 sqft gallery. The color-changing perimeter cove provides a sense of boundary within the space and sets a low-level ambience for higher drama. Then each dazzling specimen is displayed to clarify its features and create a preeminent educational experience.

Rigorous mock-ups, studies, and testing uncovered fixtures with the right attributes to define each specimen. Globally renowned gems are showcased by sources just above eye level, ensuring that visitors see the extraordinary optical properties each gem possesses. Nearby, a drab 10 ton zinc slab flashes to piercing orange and green colors elicited by UV light.

Each large case houses a dual-CCT, 98+ CRI, micro-adjustable track system for highlighting; a linear light wash to illuminate the full case and graphics; and a linear fiberoptic uplight to mitigate heavy shadows. The case's final design compartmentalized light sources in attics, to reduce the potential that maintenance might disturb this precious collection of gems and minerals. So that all New Yorkers and visitors might enjoy their brilliance.

"The hall comes alive with the lighting in this well-done renovation. The collection was always magical to see, but now the colors, textures, and sparkle of the minerals and gems are well highlighted by this new design, making it a mesmerizing space throughout."

—Glen Fasman, Bliss Fasman Inc., 2022 Lumen Awards Judge

FOCUS EXECUTION

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