



Award of

# MERIT

Winter Visual Arts Center at Franklin & Marshall College  
Lancaster, PA

**L'Observatoire International**  
Hervé Descottes, Wei Jien, June Park, Thomas Mnich, and Wen Y. Lin



The concave curves of the Winter Visual Arts Center nestle among 200-year-old trees, carving out an intimate setting for the new structure by Steven Holl Architects. L'Observatoire International's multifunctional lighting concept celebrates the distinctive geometry of the building's architecture and establishes a thoughtful and contextual addition to the campus.

The lighting scheme follows the intent of the building to serve as both an inspiring new structure on the campus and a cost-effective building that optimizes its spaces through simple design decisions. The lighting provides ideal conditions for the creation and appreciation of art through electric lighting, while elevating the value of Holl's architecture as a natural light source.

In common spaces, such as the ground floor forum, monopoints and track systems offer adjustable lighting for exhibitions and events, while integrated lighting shapes the overall atmosphere, transforming walls and edges into glowing surfaces. Studio spaces are illuminated through skylights with integrated electric lighting to facilitate an even cast of light.

Exterior lighting amplifies the unique curves and character of the building, enhancing the elevated structure to create the impression of a floating volume. While subdued in character during the day, the building transforms at night into a glowing beacon in the woods.

"This project captures our imagination as the interior lighting glows through frosted windows and creates an ethereal form in the surrounding landscape."  
—Kelly Roberts, WALD Studio, 2022 Lumen Awards Judge

- ARCHITECTS  
**Steven Holl Architects**
- STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS  
**Silman**
- MEP ENGINEERS  
**ICOR Associates**
- CIVIL ENGINEERS  
**David Miller/Associates**
- CLIMATE ENGINEERS  
**Transsolar KlimaEngineering**
- FACADE CONSULTANTS  
**Knippers Helbig Advanced Engineering**
- LANDSCAPE  
**Hollander Design Landscape Architects**
- ACOUSTICAL CONSULTANTS  
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- POOL CONSULTANTS  
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