



CITATION

for Entry and Lobby Lighting

Willis Tower Repositioning

Chicago, IL

Kugler Ning Lighting

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Designed in the 1970s and once world-famous as the Sears Tower, the Willis Tower entrances were imposing and unwelcoming for today's active urban streetscapes. The entire base of the skyscraper was reimagined to emphasize visibility, transparency, and comfort.

Uplighting a 75 ft-wide terracotta portal frames the new "jewel-box" entrance at Wacker Avenue. In-grade uplighting of the striated terracotta walls extends into the skylit lobby. Uplighting the white ceiling of the crossing bridge helps ease contrast with the bright outdoor views, and brightens the space on cloudy and rainy days.

Dramatically backlit stair risers ascend through the tower's exposed structure. Mirror-like reflections from the glass guardrails magnify the visual impact.

The tower's columns and beams are silhouetted by grazing the original lobby's travertine core wall, which also creates a dramatic backdrop for a new hanging sculpture. Working closely with local artist Jacob Hashimoto, spotlights are aimed to enhance the depth and texture of thousands of paper-and-resin discs.

The layered lighting design improves visual connections from the streetscape and welcomes tenants and visitors to gather and socialize. All while celebrating the tower's original glass and metal aesthetic, an iconic feature of Chicago's industrial heritage.

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