

# AVAILABLE LIGHT

575 5th Avenue

New York NY



The outdated lobby of 575 5th Avenue was dingy and dark. It needed light: lighter walls - lighter fixtures - lighter space. With minimal structural changes and an equally minimalist plan, Available Light, working with both architect and media designer, transformed the drab space into a contemporary and welcoming reception area. The new lobby features a varied palette of finishes, from glossy to textured, as well as a battery of flat video monitors. The intent of the lighting design was for the perceived room brightness to emanate from the cove fixtures—but balancing the light on a variety of surface finishes necessitated a unique approach to conventional cove lighting. Each wall was illuminated and individually controlled. Textured stone pillars were made to ‘pop’ forward while glossy surfaces were treated to slightly recede creating an attractive visual hierarchy celebrating the content-delivering video screens. Narrow beam luminaires graze down the textured walls. The shiny stone veneer walls required a more conventional regressed front light wash to reveal the beauty of the finish. The lobby was not only programmed to have both day and night settings; electric light levels gently fluctuate in response to daylight sensors reacting to dynamic natural light penetrating the space. An intuitive, user-friendly interface control pad makes things easy for building staff. These seemingly simple interventions culminated in a solution that drastically improved the feel of the space.



Architect: HOK Architects      Completed: 2016  
Designer: ESI Design      Photos: Brett Bayer, Available Light