



For nearly two decades a few core principles have guided us through hundreds of lighting projects around the world.

Inspired by nature

We view light as a 24/7 system, in which our role is to integrate both artificial and natural light to fulfil a range of sociological, biological and emotional needs. Besides the obvious functional benefits offered by daylight, natural light also informs our entire approach to artificial light and its relationship to architecture. It is by studying the effects of natural light that we've come to understand the dramatic possibilities offered by the interaction of artificial light with materials in terms of contrast, texture, colour, time and movement.

Learning from the past

Mankind has always felt the need to extend the day. From the firelight of the cave-dwellers to the remarkable illuminated creations of today's expanding metropolitan centres we have continuously sought the means by which to generate light where darkness otherwise might reign. By looking to the manner in which artificial light has been handled throughout history, and in particular by architects and designers in the twentieth century, we gain considerable insight into how we might move forward into the future. And, in a world that is eager to conserve its valuable resources, we recognize that darkness is something we must once again learn to embrace and conserve.

Don't add, integrate

We always strive to achieve a symbiosis between light and architecture. A hallmark of our approach is an aim to conceal the source of light in favour of a lit effect. This approach is rooted in our own background as architectural designers. We argue that environments are best when light is embedded at the heart of the architectural process rather than applied as a cosmetic add-on.

The power of collaboration

We believe strongly in the power of collaboration to bring about the best design solutions. Speirs + Major is a cross-disciplinary practice, attracting individuals from architecture, art, theatre, media and design. Our hallmark is the ability to work together with all disciplines across a project team.

Follow the process

For us delivery is as important as imagination – creative ideas count for nothing without the pragmatism to see them realised. We have developed a clear and simple process for the development of ideas in collaboration with others. This includes how we communicate information to a client, their design team and the end user, and the methodology we use to craft, detail and help deliver the solution in reality. Often what we have learned in one area of activity we take into another.

Philosophy

Designers working with light
www.speirsandmajor.com