

**SPEIRS  
MAJOR**

Room 29, National Gallery,  
London, UK

**LIGHT  
ARCHITECTURE**

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A sensitive, responsive, and flexible lighting design for this high-profile historic space enhances the experience of the architecture and delivers an appropriate setting for the enjoyment of the artwork.

CLIENT  
National Gallery

ARCHITECT  
Avanti Architects

PROJECT  
MANAGER/COST  
CONSULTANTS  
Ridge

DISPLAY LIGHTING  
Studio ZNA

DATE  
2021 - 2023

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER  
HDR

MAIN CONTRACTOR  
CBRE

PHOTOGRAPHER  
Jack Hobhouse

PROJECT TEAM  
Mark Major, Philip  
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Wichaikhamjorn

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The major feature of the room is its central panelled barrel-vault, flanked by large glazed lay lights to either side. We added soft uplighting from a concealed cross-lighting detail to highlight its detail and volume while also softening contrast with the bright planes of the lay lights. Utilising fully dimmable, tuneable white LED sources, the intensity and ambience of the ceiling can be adjusted according to the curators' requirements for exhibitions and events.



Our design also reduced the number of central downlights and found new, more discreet locations for the luminaires that reveal the interpretative text on the end, helping to simplify the space.

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While natural light makes an important contribution to the character of the space, it is also subject to wide temporal and seasonal variations. To help preserve ideal lighting conditions in the room regardless of external conditions, we recommended new tuneable-white backlighting be added behind the glass lay lights. This allows for adjustment in both colour temperature and intensity of the light, facilitating the best experience of the architecture and the art, regardless of the time of day, time of year, or the weather.



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