



David Bergman Architects

tel 212 475 3106

fax 212 677 7291

241 Eldridge Street 3R

New York, New York 10002

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**Contact: Lori Greenberg
(212) 475 3106**

'VINE' LIGHTS WRAP COLUMNS AT INDIANAPOLIS' CIRCLE CENTRE
Custom Installation of Fifty-Foot Tall Fixtures

For the newly opened Circle Centre in downtown Indianapolis, Fire & Water was commissioned to design, fabricate and install a series of 48 fixtures around the Nordstrom Court. The flower-shaped lights wind around fifty foot high columns which encircle the court.

Working with architects Ehrenkrantz and Ekstut, Fire & Water owner and designer David Bergman created an enlarged interpretation of Fire & Water's Calla Lily series of lights. The steel columns were seen as tree trunks and the lights became flowered vines wrapping the trees. To accommodate the scale of the space, the standard Calla Lily copper mesh diffuser was enlarged almost fourfold. The lilies were then reinforced with copper rods which then appear to be the veins of the flowers. The overgrown diffusers were deformed slightly to make them look still more organic.

To hold up the diffusers, the copper tubes of the original fixtures were increased in diameter and copper wire "tendrils" were added. The tendrils mimic exactly the structure of real vine tendrils: they wrap around the "trees" and then reach outward to grab the vine.

Installation and future maintenance were integral to the design process. The fixtures had to be fabricated in New York and shipped in parts to Indiana. The vines were run up the columns first, allowing the fixtures to be attached separately. Fixture heights and orientation were made intentionally irregular and take into account accessibility for both installation and relamping

The installed fixtures were lamped with 90-watt traffic signal lamps, chosen by Ehrenkrantz & Ekstut's lighting consultants, H.M.Brandston & Partners, for their longer-than-normal-incandescent life.

The Circle Centre Mall was developed by Simon Property Group, developers of the Mall of America, for the City of Indianapolis. The atrium lights are Fire & Water's largest commission to date. Transparencies are available on request.

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