

**SPEIRS
MAJOR**

Aberdeen Art Gallery,
UK

**LIGHT
ARCHITECTURE**

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The design delivers the perception of positive naturally lit spaces consistently throughout the year, a high priority for the gallery given the restricted number of daylight hours during winter months.

CLIENT
Aberdeen City
Council

ENGINEER
Buro Happold

ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTOR
Dowds Group

ARCHITECT
Hoskins Architects

MAIN CONTRACTOR
McLaughlin & Harvey

PHOTOGRAPHER
Gillian Hayes

PROJECT TEAM
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The new design by Hoskins Architects moved the existing staircases out of the entrance hall to improve visitor access and flow. Centralising vertical circulation within the atrium known as the “Sculpture Court” also allowed for higher levels of natural light from the renovated skylight above. Looking up, the beams that cross the void have been lit on one side, highlighting them as an architectural feature, while also providing enough reflected light for circulation.



A historic sculptural frieze wraps around beneath the original ceiling, its detail and texture enhanced by soft uplighting, while a bronze linear detail to either side of the new staircase creates a strong visual marker that guides the visitor journey. Uplighting to the vaulted arches completes the visual composition of the atrium, contributing a solid edge to the historic space.

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Throughout all the galleries and event spaces, Speirs Major have carefully integrated the artificial lighting to enhance the architecture, while also prioritising visitor enjoyment of the art. Custom colour temperature tuneable lay lights help to mitigate the loss of natural daylight and preserve the character of the gallery.



A minimal track detail provides flexible lighting to enhance visitor enjoyment of the artwork

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