

# Minneapolis Central Library Children's Reading Room

Minneapolis, MN



## LUMEN CITATION

A theme of transparency, openness and light defines the new library in a city known for its gray days and cold winters. The library's mandate was for a completely flexible lighting system. The solution is a dual system of fixed ambient light elements attached to the ceiling, with furniture integrated lighting. The clever reinterpretation of these elements allows each area to achieve a unique character. For the playful children's library, we reworked the linear ceiling element into a radial pattern that created a canopy over the space. Wooden "trees" with color changing LEDs hidden in their branches add an unexpected magic.

**Lighting Designer:** Francesca Bettridge, Michael Hennes, Alexis Arnoldi, Nicole Kim, *Cline Bettridge Bernstein Lighting Design*

**Architect:** Mark Shoemaker, *Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects/Thomas Hysell, Architectural Alliance*

**Project Owner:** Kit Hadley, *Minneapolis Central Library*

**Photographer:** Paul Crosby Architectural Photography/Jeff Goldberg, Esto Photography

This Library is certainly one the most beautiful projects I have worked on. What struck me most was how thrilled the public was with the building from the instant they stepped through the doors. They genuinely embraced the space as their own. As a designer, I could expect no greater reward."

—Francesca Bettridge, Lighting Designer



It glows from inside out giving it a glorious welcoming street presence in this northern city known for its long days and gray skies. The interior is no less warm and inviting due to its superb lighting. — William Menking