

Museo de Arte de Ponce

Ponce, Puerto Rico

LUMEN CITATION

Our task was to renovate one of the finest daylight museums in the world. In Edward Durrell Stone's 1965, design the seven massive skylights hovering above the upper galleries are central to the building's organization and fabric. However, since its construction, the excessive exposure of its collection to high intensity, near-Equatorial sunlight had yet to be remedied. Proposing an internal shading system would alter Stone's architecture. Roof louvers that admitted only northern skylight would alter the building exterior and color of light within. The solution, a redesigned skylight frame with a custom, translucent glazing unit and fluorescent uplighting, respects the original design while providing diffused UV-free sunlight at half the previous light levels. It performs so well, electric light is not required for most of the museum's operational hours.

Lighting Designer: Matthew Tanteri, *Tanteri + Associates*

Architect: Luis Gutierrez, *Luis Gutierrez Architects PSC*

Project Owner: Dr. Agustin Arteaga, CEO & Director, Museo de Arte de Ponce

Photographer: Matthew Tanteri

Our work required that we carefully address conservation issues. At the same time, we wanted to retain the viewing experience of the collection and building itself, of which the unique characteristics of sunlight was so much an established part. Although our initial thought was to take the museum out of the sun, what we came to realize was that we couldn't take sunlight out of this museum – it was what gave it its life.

—Matthew Tanteri, Daylighting Consultant

The sculpting of daylight in this project really stands out and is so often overlooked as a source for effect and theatricality.

—Shawn Sullivan

