

An Easy Fix



Fino - Wall Mount

Amerlux's Fino Helps High-Rise Retrofit Residents Unwind

Surrounded by the bustling activity of the downtown Financial District, conveniently located close to the South Station transit hub, the 33-story skyscraper at 100 Summer Street fast became an easy-to-spot, marquee high-rise in Boston's scenic skyline when construction commenced in 1974.

Its distinctive bronze-tinted windows topped the reasons why, and the structure, with more one-million-plus square feet of office space, remains Beantown's architectural staple today.

But inside, its 8,500-square-foot lobby, despite a recent makeover, remained stubbornly stuck in time—the renovation already outdated. The entrance was mildly uninspiring, made up of just a few pieces of furniture and a large, unwelcoming security desk—reminiscent of an antiquated era when a lobby was just a lobby, a space where employees zigzagged to and from their offices in floors above.

Real estate investment company EQ Office, which acquired the building in the late 1990s, wanted a more comforting retreat that checked off two must-haves. One was producing a warm and sophisticated environment to welcome visitors. The second was a lobby that better catered to today's work-anywhere-at-any-time culture and encouraged workers to mingle, collaborate and



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flip open laptops, like many of the building’s new technology and coworking tenants had come to expect.

“In its previous incarnation, the lobby felt very sterile and had sort of a mid-century modernist design to it, with very clean lines but no sense of comfort,” says Dan Weissman, Senior Associate & Director of Lam Labs at Lam Partners, who served as the project’s lighting designer. “With the trend of making commercial spaces more hospitality-like, the client wanted the lobby to make people feel better, not just look better.”

In response, Atelier Cho Thompson, a San Francisco-

and New Haven, Connecticut-based multidisciplinary design firm that Weissman has known since his graduate school days, created four zones to respond to varying workstyles, each tailored with appropriate furnishings and lighting customized by Weissman’s team to suit the targeted guest.

A challenge, he said, was retrofitting an existing soffit with a cove when the design team did not want to add a new cove shelf.

“In the original version of the design, they had these humongous, very glary and not very good wall wash fixtures,” Weissman recalls. “We wanted to clean that up and make it feel a little less like we’re trying to call attention to the hardware. We wanted to make the architecture cleaner and more streamlined.”

To do that, Weissman's team installed more than 150 linear feet of the most robust LED lighting product they could find that offered the kind of detail they needed with a remote driver that could be moved around easily: Fino, Amerlux's stunningly thin, indirect LED lighting solution that's only five-eighths of an inch thick, same as sheetrock. The Fino wall mount, positioned just a few inches from the ceiling, ran seamlessly across the walls without the need to cut studs or interrupt the existing framing of the cove. This unique design left the walls and ceiling pristine clean while creating a beautiful visual impression along the coves and down the walls.

"There was this existing kind of step in the ceiling, a higher section of the ceiling around the perimeter that dropped into the middle of the room," Weissman says. "So, it was basically either build more architecture to support a cove product, find a cove product that was off the shelf or find something that was offered my streamlined capabilities along the vertical surface. We proposed these various possible

solutions, which made everybody gravitate towards something that was cleaner, simpler and did not require more architecture. That was Fino."

The result, Weissman adds, was a new-look lobby

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that urged visitors to slow down and look around, maybe take a seat, collaborate and network, even brainstorm and think outside the box, much like the project itself. "The project has been very well received, a total success," he adds.

How much of a success? The retrofit was Contract Magazine's 2020 Interiors Awards Lobby Winner, a prestigious honor that Amerlux's precision, comfortable Fino LED linear fixture family lent a hand in winning.





Photos by Ryan Fischer

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Scope

Real estate investment company EQ Office retrofitted the 8,500-square-foot lobby at its 100 Summer St. commercial high-rise building in Boston, Massachusetts, swapping a traditional, outdated lobby look with a vibrant respite take. The new look was tailored to the building's new tech and coworking tenants and their nomadic ways of

working anywhere that inspires comfort and collaboration.

In all, more than 150 linear feet of Amerlux's Fino LED lighting solutions were installed throughout a space approximately 80 feet by 60 feet in size, offering the detailed, indirect lighting and easy-to-move remote driver the project required, without having to add a new cove shelf.

Architect

Atelier Cho Thompson, San Francisco and New Haven, Connecticut

Lighting Consultant

Lam Partners, Cambridge MA

Benefits

- Made the lobby's new architecture appear cleaner and more streamlined.
- Fixtures' stunningly thin, indirect LED lighting solution runs seamlessly across walls without the need to cut wall studs, leaving ceilings pristine clean and creating a beautiful visual impression.
- Easy-to-move remote driver.
- Reduces glare.

Have an upcoming project? Let's bring your vision to life.

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