



Sofitel Montreal : Lighting in Motion

Where Light Dances with Design

Inspired by French fashion and the poetry of movement, this lighting installation at Sofitel Montreal pays homage to the elegance of pleated skirts mid-twirl and the refined artistry of a classical dining experience. The sculptural forms twist and billow like fabric suspended in motion—structured yet fluid, elegant yet dynamic. Glowing softly from within, each pendant appears weightless, caught in a moment of choreography, frozen in air. The second design layer draws from French tableware—specifically dish-like forms that nod to the delicacy of porcelain plates. Suspended above, these gently rounded pendants feature graphic detailing that echoes fine craftsmanship and understated luxury. Art and function merge gracefully in this bespoke creation.

Location:

Montreal, Canada

Client:

2pirdesign

Photographer:

Joel Esposito

Year:



Design Intent :

Inspiration: French couture, classical ballet, and elevated table settings

Form & Function: Sculptural lighting pieces that double as kinetic art

Mood: Airy, elegant, and quietly theatrical

Materials: Custom-fabricated lighting components, textile and/or resin-based finishes to simulate movement and delicacy



Challenges :

This project, while rich in creative vision, presented unique production and execution hurdles:

Budget Constraints and Quality Standards:

The original design included a concave, inner-domed structure to mimic a fabric's fold. Realizing this vision required custom mold production—this is a cost-prohibitive approach.

Material Experimentation:

To stay within budget, a workaround using stretch fabric was explored. While promising in theory, it failed to deliver the desired visual integrity and durability.

Compressed Timeline:

A tight delivery schedule limited the window for prototyping, thorough testing, and quality control. Fixtures needed to be approved and delivered quickly, leaving minimal margin for design iteration.

Communication:

Due to the timeframe and turnaround, it was important for the design, manufacturing, and installation teams to communicate effectively around specific technical requirements, including lighting output and mounting methods.





Solutions :

The final product met both the aesthetic and performance goals, key learnings emerged:

1. Early Prototyping & Material Testing

Investing in early-stage mock-ups and physical prototypes is critical—especially when working with unconventional materials or novel forms. This process enables teams to validate design feasibility, material behavior, and fabrication tolerances well before final production.

2. Improved Cross-Team Communication

Establishing clear communication channels, defined roles, and consistent check-ins between designers, engineers, and on-site teams is essential. A shared document outlining performance expectations, finish details, and installation methodology can avoid costly misunderstandings later.

3. Flexibility in Design Thinking

While the final form diverged from the original domed vision, the adaptation retained the poetic elegance and sculptural presence that defined the concept. Being open to material and structural pivots—without sacrificing creative integrity—is part of the innovation process.

The installation now stands as a quiet triumph—an expression of design resilience and collaborative problem-solving. It gracefully achieves its original intent: to offer a sense of suspended elegance, a moment of beauty mid-motion, and a nod to both the artistry of dance and the refinement of the French table.

Contact Us:

+1 416 786 6463

info@visoinc.com

111 Bermondsey Road

Toronto, ON M4A 1X5