



Plexineon White 2X Series fixtures follow the curves of a new entrance canopy at 55 W. Monroe St., in the heart of downtown Chicago.

PROJECT

High-rise entrance

SITE

Chicago

LOCATION

Exterior application

PRODUCT USE

Indirect view

LIGHTING DESIGN

Gwen Grossman
Lighting Design

ARCHITECT

Wright Heerema Architects

PRODUCT

Plexineon White 2X Series

LENGTH

336 LF (102 m)

AN iLIGHT SUCCESS STORY

A WORLD-CLASS FIRST IMPRESSION

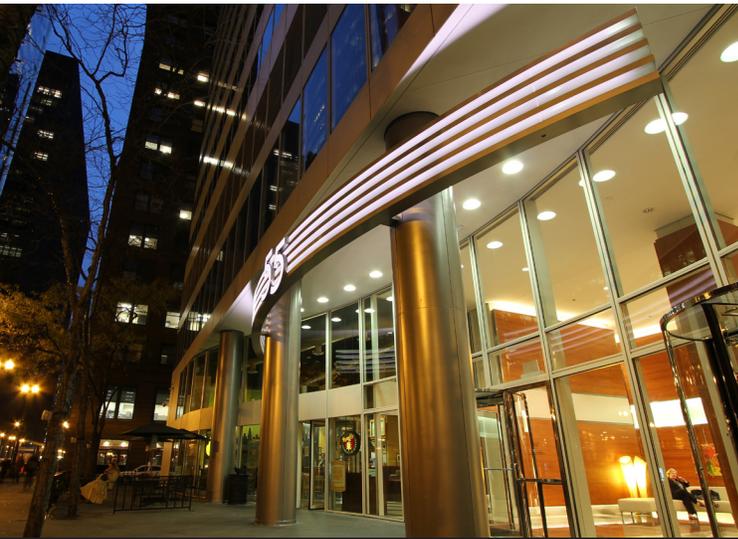
Plexineon Updates Entrances to Helmut Jahn-designed Tower

With its rich architectural heritage, Chicago takes skyscrapers seriously. So when a glassy, 40-story Helmut Jahn-designed tower built in 1980 underwent rebranding to attract new tenants, the end result had to be worthy of distinction.

A revitalization of the building's lobby and street-level exterior called for enhancing the artistic nature of the structure. In keeping with that intent, Plexineon White 2X Series fixtures were chosen to highlight two new entrance canopies, each situated along a different downtown street. Striped and streamlined, Plexineon provides an accent that's consistent with the clean, contemporary lines of 55 W. Monroe St.

The Design Challenge

The project lighting scheme was created by Gwen Grossman, principal of Gwen Grossman Lighting Design, who was brought in by Wright Heerema Architects to illuminate new elements and relight existing ones on the exterior and in the interior lobby.



The project lighting designer knew right away that Plexineon would be the right choice to form curved bows of light.

When she saw that plans for the entrance canopies included curved bows of light setting off “55” in the center, she suggested using Plexineon for the application.

“Because of the curved nature of the canopies, I knew Plexineon was the way to go,” she says. “I’d worked with the product many times before and seen that it holds up over time, even against Chicago’s extreme weather. And the color quality is excellent. It gives the exact softness we were looking for.”

Plexineon’s mounting capabilities also were an advantage. Grossman took a hands-on approach to how the sign was detailed, with each of the five fins indirectly illuminated by Plexineon mounted on the fin below.

“We needed four inches between the top of each fixture to the bottom of the fin above. iLight was very good at creating shop drawings and a mock-up for the contractor, to assure the spacing was done just right at installation.”

HELMUT JAHN SKYSCRAPER PROJECT DETAILS

LIGHTING DESIGN

Gwen Grossman Lighting Design
www.gwengrossmanlighting.com

ARCHITECT

Wright Heerema Architects
www.wrightheeremaarchitects.com

A third element is a freestanding monument sign listing the building’s tenants as well as Hearn Co., the Chicago-based owner. Plexineon is integrated into the 19-foot sign structure to glow and accentuate its oval shape.

“I’d worked with the product many times before and seen that it holds up over time, even against Chicago’s extreme weather.”

Gwen Grossman
Principal, Gwen Grossman Lighting Design

The Plexineon Advantage

Since being installed in 2012, the effect of Plexineon outside 55 W. Monroe St. strikes just the right tone for a world-class structure — creating a sleek first impression of what soars above.

“It’s very subtle – it gives a really nice glow to the signage,” Grossman says. “The color never seems to fade; it’s always a vibrant color.”

iLight LED products can add distinction to your next interior or exterior project. Learn more at our web site: www.ilight-tech.com.



Plexineon accents the clean, contemporary lines of the 40-story Helmut Jahn-designed tower.

About iLight Technologies

iLight LED products can add impact to your next interior or exterior project, while providing the reliability and durability you demand. Whether you’re looking for inspiration or already have a vision ready to turn into reality, learn more at our website: www.ilight-tech.com.