

**SPEIRS  
MAJOR**

Norwich Cathedral,  
UK

**LIGHT  
ARCHITECTURE**

8 Shepherdess Walk  
London,  
N1 7LB  
United Kingdom

T +44 (0)20 7067 4700

Co-lab Shibuya Cast  
23-21, Shibuya 1-Chome  
Tokyo 150-0002  
Japan

T +81 (0)3 3400 8855

[info@smlightarchitecture.com](mailto:info@smlightarchitecture.com)  
[press@smlightarchitecture.com](mailto:press@smlightarchitecture.com)

# SPEIRS MAJOR



Subtle revelation, rather than dramatic effect, is designed to create ambience for occasions where the circumstances are deemed appropriate. Our design addresses the principal areas of the Cathedral including the aisles, nave, choir, crossing, presbytery, ambulatory, transepts and chapels, providing general lighting and task lighting, as well as highlights to entrances and steps to ensure safe access.

CLIENT  
Dean and Chapter of  
Norwich Cathedral

SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR /  
PROJECT MANAGER  
Light Perceptions

CONTRACTOR  
EV Bullen

SURVEYOR  
Freeland Rees  
Roberts Architects

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER  
Eng Design

PHOTOGRAPHER  
James Newton

PROJECT TEAM  
Mark Major, Philip  
Rose



## SPEIRS MAJOR



Our aim is to achieve ‘unselfconscious’ lighting – a scheme that both enhances and complements the objects of liturgical significance, while improving the electrical infrastructure to facilitate broader use including concerts, events and potential broadcasts.



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Each lighting effect is individually controlled and dimmable from 0% to 100% brightness. This fine level of control enables the client to shift the focus of worship around the building, creating different atmospheres that suit the many uses of the various spaces. The all-LED design has generated significant savings in energy and maintenance in comparison to the previous tungsten-halogen scheme. It has also reduced UV emissions, helping to protect and preserve the sensitive painted medieval artworks and artefacts.

An immensely complex undertaking, it was necessary to deliver the project in phases that allowed the Cathedral to remain operational at all times. As well as lighting, we undertook the rationalisation and replacement of the electrical infrastructure, including hand-painting the new cabling in a trompe l'oeil effect, to blend it into the building fabric.

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To deliver the many layers of light with minimal impact to the building fabric, we designed a series of simple, multi-purpose details, honed through multiple tests and mock-ups. A bespoke modular track system sits within the fluted profile of the columns. This provides the flexibility to locate and direct light where needed while limiting the number of physical connections, minimising damage to the stonework. Mounted on the eastern face of the columns, the tracks are completely hidden from view in the primary viewing positions. For the Quire, we created a bespoke stall-mounted luminaire: a modern interpretation of a candle, it improves conditions for reading music while creating a soft sparkle reminiscent of a flame.

