AWARD OF MERIT

COSTUME NATIONAL
New York, NY

Universe Lighting
Matthew Tirschwell & Scott Thurm

Shop Architects
Chris Sharples

A "black hole" cut out of New York City's facade, this retail fashion store demonstrates the ability to successfully showcase "downtown" clothing in a hip, unforgettable manner. Though entirely black, the interior design finishes are highly polished—the lighting floats in space.

The showroom is an open loft space that contains a center display table, clothing mounted on two sides, and clear edge-lit Plexiglas shelves.

The floor is specular, so a tight angle of focus towards the wall was designed. Direct light hits only the clothing. Filament-capped 10" spot lamps illuminate the clothing while limiting glare. Bayonet bases ease re-lamping. Lamps are mounted on a black baffled extruded raceway. Remote transformers are located nearby inside the light boxes to avoid voltage drop. End emitting fiber-optics are encased in a 1" square extrusion, end-positioned 1/4" on center and fastened onto the polished back edge of shelves. The other three edges are frosted, and "glow" a cool white light.

Long glowing rectangular and short square light-boxes dominate the ceiling. Lighting inside consists of long-life 3500° Kelvin compact fluorescent lamps, mounted on end, base up, 9" on center on an extruded metal housing.

A true reflection of the fashion it showcases, the architecture echoes the clothing design. Light adds structure to the unified environment.