AWARD OF MERIT

RITE AID PHARMACY
Queens, NY

Lighting Designers
Ann Kale Associates
Ann Kale

Architects
Lee Levine Studio

Not your average Rite Aid, this store is located in a turn-of-the-century neoclassical bank building located in the Ridgewood section of Queens, NY. Challenging Rite Aid's instructions to install their standard 12'-0" ACT ceiling, the architect and the Rite Aid project manager went out on a limb to ensure that the neighborhood's most prized building remained largely intact.

As a concession to avoiding a new low ceiling, the designers were required to meet the mandatory 12'-0" mounting height for the standard issue 8'-0" long fluorescent lamps. Wanting to avoid a forest of pendants, two truss structures were located on axis with the two entrances to the rear pharmacy. Supported by webs of metal cables and small front columns, the designers affectionately refer to them as Brooklyn Bridges. For additional uplight, metal halide low-bay glass reflector fixtures are mounted upside-down to the structure.

The grand aisles are illuminated via pendant mounted metal halide high-bay glass reflector fixtures, providing a visual link between the matching entrance and rear windows of the main sales area. The perimeter walls are highlighted by bare lamp fluorescent channels on tops of wall display cases as a means of drawing shoppers attention to distant sales areas.

Beyond the rear wall, where the bank vault was once located, is the pharmacy. A horseshoe pattern of bare fluorescent channels connects the two truss structures located in the main sales area.

Once completed, the Rite Aid was commended by public officials and local newspapers for their commitment to preserving one of the few treasured buildings in the Ridgewood area.