The Rookery, a milestone in American architecture, makes history again as nighttime lighting graces its façades for the first time in the edifice’s over century-long history. OVI’s new exterior lighting softly highlights the intricate masonry and distinctive red color. To fulfill the Chicago Landmarks Commission requirements, custom 14-watt LED luminaires (1.5”-high) are concealed from pedestrian view, using field-adjustable mounting arms that minimize contact with the historic facade. Special micro-optics create a flattened cone of illumination, grazing three stories high, without spilling light into the night sky and eliminating glare for tenants. The resulting scheme minimizes both hardware and energy use.

“The building’s distinctive red color made it visually “disappear” at night. Now, the Rookery’s elegant and restrained nighttime identity links it to the time of its creation, emphasizing the importance and beauty of its architecture”
— Jean Sundin and Enrique Peiniger, OVI