Winter Park’s new, LEED Silver Center for Health and Well-Being is a study in complex, yet elegant design. The center houses a variety of fitness areas, classrooms, and community resources, all linked by the project’s centerpiece — a 16,000 sqft Commons featuring a soaring, 44 ft ceiling.

Lighting the vast wood ceiling of the Commons uses just two fixture types. Banks of fixtures varying in beamspread, aiming angle, and control strategy articulate the ceiling, highlighting its dramatic, undulating form and ensuring its visibility from outside. To extend the effect, CBB requested a small ledge be integrated along an upper mullion. Here, the same linear fixtures, with four different beamspreads adjusted to three different angles, articulate the edge of the ceiling and illuminate the exterior overhang through the fenestration.

Large, decorative pendants at each end of the Commons provide scale and mark these zones as gathering spaces. Small, multi-head accent lights illuminate the first floor, the balcony, and columns.

The warm lighting brings the architect’s palette of natural materials to life, and is so thoughtfully integrated into the architecture that most sources of illumination are not readily apparent. Despite complexity in engineering and use, the project’s deceptively simple lighting is serene and welcoming.

“A great deal of attention was paid to the welcoming experience of materiality, color, and light in the design of the architecture. CBB, as always, has done a wonderful job of lighting the spaces, from the grandest to the most intimate of scales.”

— Turan Duda, Duda|Paine Architects