





Architect: Olin
Photography: Olin/Sahar Coston-Hardy

David H. Koch Plaza, Metropolitan Museum of Art

New York, NY

With as many as six million pedestrians and passers-by walking in front of the Metropolitan Museum every year, and over 2,000 employees and volunteers entering the institution daily, the museum's Fifth Avenue Plaza is one of the most heavily trafficked spots in New York City. Certainly, the Met's grand stair case is the quintessential New York meeting place. As such, it is fitting that after 40 years, this plaza, stretching from 80th to 84th Streets, and its fountains have finally undergone a renovation which has transformed the exterior of this national treasure into a space worthy of the famed masterpieces housed inside its galleries.

Redesign of the plaza included the removal of existing curbing, pavements, fountains, and trees, as well as the installation of new pavements, tree-shaded allées, casual seating, shade structures, custom and programmable granite fountains, and entirely new, energy-efficient LED lighting. The fountains operate year round via subterranean pump rooms, while the diffused lighting highlights the unique architectural features of the museum's façade. Finally, a snowmelt system is embedded under the sidewalk at the south drive.

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KOHLER RONAN, LLC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

171 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016
P (212) 695-2422 F (212) 695-2423

krce@kohlerronan.com

93 Lake Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810
P (203) 778-1017 F (203) 778-1018

www.kohlerronan.com