Ultralights
2007 Architectural Lighting Design Competition

Polycarbonate panel

3/4" Aluminum tubing

Folded white powder coated aluminum

Folded clear anodized aluminum

Polycarbonate panel
In this lighting design competition, our design team carefully considered various components, the place, the performance, and the potential formal expression of the design to lead to the creation of a unique lighting fixture.

In terms of place, the inspiration for this light fixture began by taking a look at contemporary architecture in Minneapolis, one building in particular, the Walker Art Center by Herzog and de Meuron. Sharp angles and clean lines delineate this building, and inspired the use of such angles in our project. This idea of the structure and form of the fixture being articulated by expressive adjustments in the surface plane led us to the concept of folding. The lighting fixture itself is a continuous, folded surface. Its folded, asymmetrical form can be easily fabricated and assembled while creating a fixture that is dynamic and aesthetically pleasing.

In terms of performance, this method of folding was used to enhance the human experience by creating a reflective surface that lights by illumination. The reflective surface folds into itself to create a seamless transition between the reflective element and the housing for the light bulb. Its form is created by angles calculated to effectively reflect the light into the space giving a more balanced and diffused quality of light.

In terms of spatial expression, the lighting fixture is seen as a repeatable element that can be arrayed in the space to become a sort of hanging mobile, taking inspiration from the work of Alexander Calder. These hanging elements create balance in an asymmetrical way as they cantilever in space and relate dynamically to one another. Each fixture is hung from a slender line and slightly overlaps from one fixture to the next to create a visual balance.

Each of these considerations have made their way into this design, creating a simple, yet elegant solution.