



**MultichoiceCity:** an abundance of natural light

Classic luminaire **converted to LED**

Lighting **Swisscom** Business Campus



## Facilitating interaction

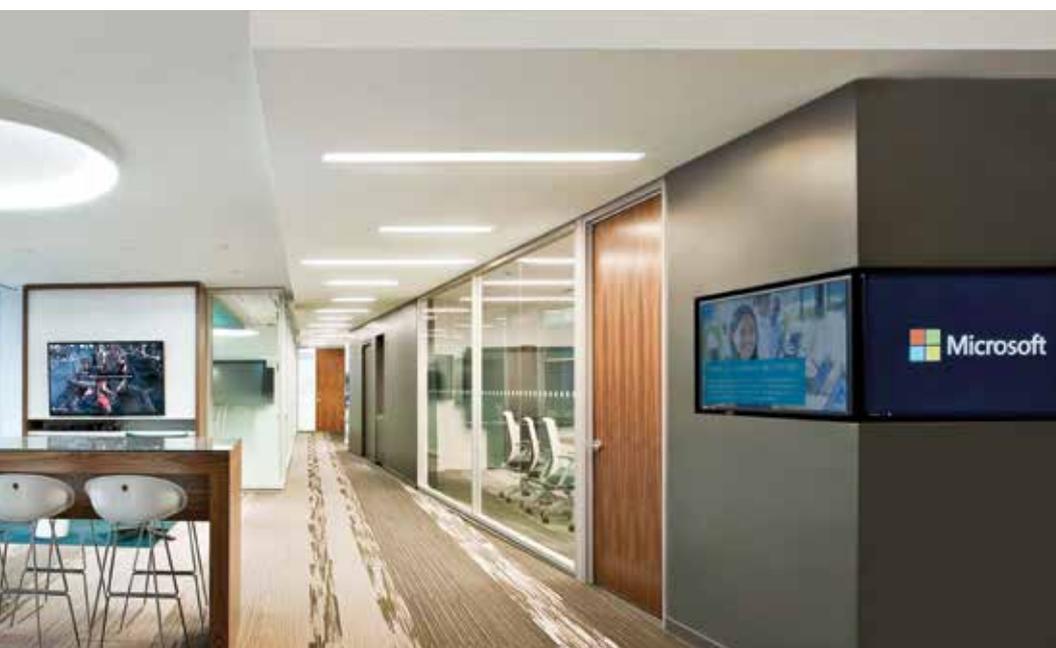
Microsoft recently opened its first Conference Centre in Montreal. Corporate interior design expert, Metaphore Design, was given the mandate to develop a functional and welcoming space that inspires innovation. It was after a thorough study of this world leader's DNA that the designers opted for a vaporous and aerial signature, punctuated with dynamic elements.

The lighting of the space, designed in collaboration with LumiGroup, plays a key role in the interior design concept. Subtle at times, bright, diffuse or alive at others, the lighting accompanies, punctuates and accentuates every detail; sometimes becoming a shape, volume, or graphic/architectural element.

Upon entry, visitors are welcomed by a structurally organic and aerodynamic reception desk, with

undefined limits. This floating white object instantly transports them to Microsoft's universe, one of intangibility, immateriality, technology, innovation and creativity. The company logo also appears to float in the silky white pool, thanks to soft lighting with undefined contouring. This dreamy effect is achieved with a special lens, Dasal's Wall-Wash, which evenly distributes the light using a wider and higher light beam than is used in standard recessed lights.

Attention is then directed towards a dropped ceiling, present in three conference rooms, revealing a blue sky occupied by delicate clouds, referring to Windows system's famous wallpaper, an iconic Microsoft image. The minimalist profile lighting fixture, through its bidirectional lighting, highlights the azure ceiling and the conference table, provid-





ing a functional workspace. A gradient frost on the glass walls adds to the vaporous and airy ambience.

The waiting room is comprised of multiple areas – an area for relaxing, another for social meet-ups or entertainment, a lounge area with intimate seating, a bar counter and a video game area. This was achieved using an array of volumes, materials and colours. The lighting remains discreet and functional, while the central ring of light punctuates the room in a more playful way.

The light then energetically unfolds in the main corridor with a rhythmic game of recessed light bands of varying lengths in the ceiling. This light pattern continues in the adjacent inner conference room, crossing through the completely transparent glass wall, again challenging the physical boundaries.

Another dynamic movement is observed at the entrance of the training room where, contrasting with the padded and floating atmosphere of the

reception and conference rooms, a large backlit mural displays photographed silhouettes in motion. A long strip of vivid white light overlooks the mural, accentuating velocity, guiding the visitor towards the entrance of the room. These notions of speed and linear movement, also noticeable in the pattern on the floor, graphically illustrate technology and its rapid development.

LumiGroup and Métaphore Design transport visitors into a world between floating and movement, between serenity and dynamism, where material and digital seem to merge. It is because of this balance that Microsoft's Conference Centre provides a welcoming environment where technology becomes intelligible, and facilitates interactions and learning. **LiD**

*LumiGroup: [www.lumigroup.net](http://www.lumigroup.net)*

*Metaphore Design: [www.metaphoredesign.ca](http://www.metaphoredesign.ca)*

