

DESIGN GOLD

Barbara Balestreri creates theatrical lighting in Dolce & Gabbana, Tokyo





Pics: Francis Dzikowski/OTTO



Mind, Body & Soul

The Body Factory in New York City has had a make-over by BFDO Architects, creating a clean and modern atmosphere for spa treatments.

The Body Factory is a medical spa situated in the heart of New York City. BFDO Architects were brought in to create a serene and tranquil environment for the spa clients as well as design an aesthetically unique and beautiful space. A multidisciplinary architectural firm based in New York, BFDO focuses its attention on exploring spatial and material practices that adapt to evolving relationships between inhabitants and the built environment. Working closely with lighting consultant Evet Hafif from Supreme Lighting (now at Light Lab Design), the team developed an eye-catching retail and spa space for the Dermatologica skincare line. Associate at BFDO Christina Ostermier said: “The inspiration behind the design came from the idea of a spa inside a concrete cave. The reception and retail lighting highlight the concrete faceted walls, and floating glowing shelves illuminate product placement in the retail section. The treatment rooms need to feel clean and serene, so we added a dimmable light cove along the perimeter of the ceiling. The wallpaper in the treatment rooms has a shimmer in it that catches the light and gives

a subtle shine cascading down the walls.” Alexandra Barker, Principal at BFDO added: “This is our second project with the Body Factory, and the clients were looking for design moves they can repeat as a part of their brand as they continue to open more stores in Manhattan. In the beauty and skincare industry lighting plays a very important role, so it was a major design component from the beginning.” The concrete toned walls and polished concrete floor are the perfect blank canvas for these LED highlights. The triangular panelled walls are illuminated indirectly with Primaline LED tape lighting set into slim gaps between each panel. Along the softly skimmed walls are floating shelves displaying the spa products, which are lit with recessed edge lighting by Coronet RRD Series 3-foot diameter LED. As described by BFDO architects, the project takes on a “mullet strategy, where a design conforms to normative forms and proportions at its public face and reverts to a more dynamic spatial logic on its private face and reverses it to draw in visitors”. Behind the scenes, the treatment rooms are lit with direct lighting from large round lenses set into the lowered ceiling provided

by Nora Lighting. To disguise the air supply vents, indirect lighting emerges from the perimeter coves, which also adds to the ambient atmosphere that compliments the spa treatments. Barker commented: “Treatment rooms need two types of lighting – bright overhead light for the clinician, which we achieved by using oversized 3-foot diameter recessed LED fixtures, and an ambient perimeter light that is the LED tapelight in the coves.” The washroom area towards the rear of the office space is covered entirely in black penny tiles that provide a reflective surface for the stylish backlit rectangular mirror, creating a modern environment with geometric light lines across the surfaces mimicking the architectural angular edges in the heart of the retail space. Completing the look and drawing together the recurring geometric themes of the space, a custom made triangular light fixture frames the recessed edges of the ceiling above the custom designed and fabricated Caesarstone reception desk in the front foyer of the shop floor. ■ www.barkerfreeman.com