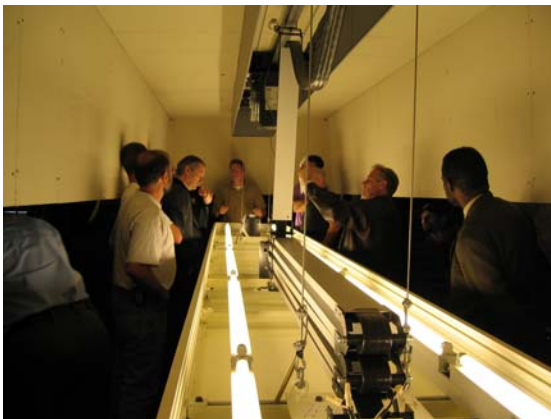


## Lights, please!



One might think that changing a light bulb is not much of a project. But when the fixtures are permanently installed to a ceiling that is 35' above the ground, as was the case in the Vivian Beaumont Theater lobby, a simple task can be a very expensive problem. After thirty years Lincoln Center was no longer willing to put up with it. They wanted fixtures that could be lowered to the ground and at the same time provide better and dimmable lighting. The problem was that it was not possible to run additional conduit, which meant that power for the motors had to be taken from the power of the lights. This involved integrating a switching mechanism at each unit.

I. Weiss, Winona Lighting, Bogen Photo, and Fisher Marantz Lighting Consultants worked together on finding a solution. The fixtures would be removed, and the outdated cathode tubes replaced with dimmable fluorescent uplights. Custom fabricated articulating arms operated by IFF Combi Hoists would contain the electrical feed as well as the DMX cable. When fully retracted the articulating arms would “disappear” on top of the fixture. Both, the lights and the hoists would be integrated into a touch screen key pad which could be operated from the floor.



A single fixture was removed and upgraded to the suggested specifications. I. Weiss then built a “mock-up lobby ceiling” shaped and painted to match the site conditions so that the mechanism and the lighting of the new fixture could be demonstrated on the ground. When Lincoln Center was satisfied with the result the renovation could begin.

The 25 lighting fixtures were removed, which in itself was difficult considering that each fixture measured 22' x 3' and weighed 350 pounds. The fixtures were packed into individual plywood crates and loaded onto two tractor trailers which took them to Winona Lighting in Minnesota for renovation.

In the meantime I. Weiss mounted steel framework to the lobby ceiling and then installed Bogen's IFF hoists. Steel skirts matching the fixtures were mounted to mask the equipment. The articulating arms were fabricated and sent to Winona for attachment to the fixtures. Then the completed lights were ready for reinstallation. Since the fixtures had to be retracted into a coffered ceiling they needed to be perfectly level. Even a slight variation would stand out. I. Weiss leveled the fixtures by installing a pivoting termination and fine tuning this adjustment by adding weight to balance the units on a case by case basis. After twelve weeks the projects was finished and the system functional.



