

Architectural Skylight Project: Peabody Essex Museum



Project:

Peabody Essex Museum
Salem, MA

Architect:

Moshe Safdie & Associates, Inc.
Somerville, MA

Contractor:

Turner Construction
Boston, MA

Project Summary:

Moshe Safdie's Peabody Essex Museum design consists of 19 skylights, ranging from standard, to extremely complex geometries.

In fact, the centerpiece of the design, called

the "Spine", and its accompanying courtyard skylight were so complex that other skylight companies said that it could not be built.

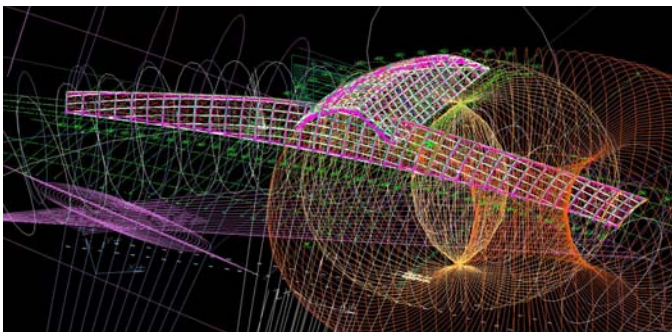
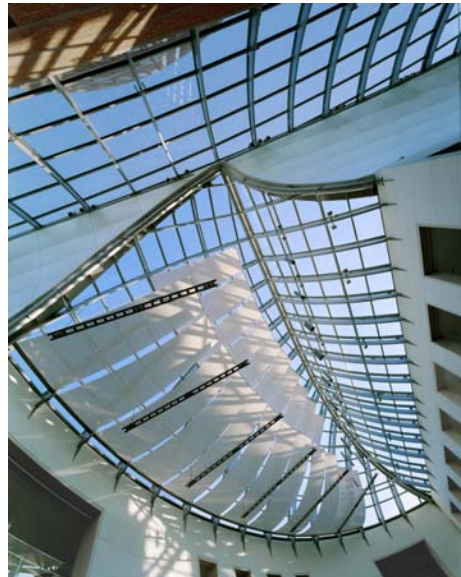
AGT built the skylights as designed, by partnering with Safdie architects on "geometric resolution and coordination".

Despite the complexity of the design, AGT delivered a cost-effective solution through the creative use of flat glass panels on curved surfaces, and the maximization of like-sized units and common parts.

Installation of the project was greatly simplified with AGT's

novel application of a Total Station GPS survey. This 3D map of the actual building frame was overlaid on AGT's CAD design files to ensure a perfect fit before the skylights were delivered to the site.

(Left: A 3D model analyzes the collision of toruses, which defined the shape and structure of PEM's "Spine" skylight.)



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