

MONTAGE

Boston, Massachusetts

Client: Montage



AWARDS

*Lighting Design Award of Merit 2005,
International Association of
Lighting Designers*

*Superior Achievements in Design
and Innovation, 2004
Retail Traffic magazine*

Boston's premier furniture store, Montage, sets the standard for the ultimate in European furniture design. Elkus Manfredi created Montage's new 10,500-square-foot multi-level flagship store in the landmark Paine Furniture Building.

Inspired by elements of both gallery and museum design, Elkus Manfredi used the building's existing historic elements, inventive lighting, and a strong contrasting palette of black and white to create an award-winning showcase for the furniture. The design is restrained — a subdued backdrop for the beauty of the product itself. The high ceilings and columns of the restored interior are a cool white; the hardwood flooring is stained a deep ebony to set off the furniture's sculptural lines. Subtle, sophisticated track lighting further emphasizes each piece. Downstairs, columns rise through the ceiling plane, topped by halos of light. Continuous illumination along the perimeter gives a sense of natural daylight filtering from above.

One bold, sculptural design element links the two levels and further enhances the furniture: a steel staircase surrounded by a 27-foot cascade of illuminated nickel curtain that showers light to the level below. The shimmering stairway entices customers beyond street level to experience the entire store, and has become an icon — the signature of Montage itself.



