

⇒ **A goodbye to shadows**

Brooklyn Bridge, New York/USA

Underpasses are by nature murky places, unwelcoming urban spaces that thrive on shadows and the dark side of life. People who use them daily generally rate them as dark and dirty, and make their way through them as fast as possible to ensure phantoms lurking in shadows don't have a chance to leap out at them and spirit them away.

The pedestrian entrance to the Brooklyn Bridge in Brooklyn, New York City was a similar place to what is described above before it was redesigned by Linnaea Tillett, lighting designer from Tillett Lighting Design, and Karin Tehve, architect from Designstudio KT3D. Their lighting installation entitled "This Way" now enhances the



space. The title says exactly what the lighting does: lead pedestrians from one level to the next via a narrow flight of steps from and to a part of town known as Dumbo (Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass). On the Brooklyn side of the bridge it used to be very hard to see your way up the steps. Now lines of light guide bridge users and illuminate the path and roadway from underneath the bridge deck. The cables running all over the underside of the bridge provided the design inspiration for the "fingers of light". The lines consist of side-emitting optical fibres in a PVC sheath fed by a generator equipped with a 150 watt metal halide lamp. At the same time as the artistic lighting was installed, street maps of the area were set up at the foot of the steps

indicating local sights so that visitors can orient themselves. Additional LED downlights ensure there is sufficient light on the path and roadway. Those installed over the footpaths have received blue filters, thus generating a bluish glow at the edge of the underpass. The lighting designers purposefully opted for blue light, since it is rarely used for urban lighting solutions. What used to be a shady corner has become a nighttime eye-catcher.

Project team:

Client: New York City, "Percent for Art" programme and the "Dumbo Business Improvement District"

Lighting design: Linnaea Tillett, Tillett Lighting Design and Karin Tehve, Designstudio KT3D, both from Brooklyn
