



2026 ULI NEW YORK  
AWARDS *for*  
EXCELLENCE *in*  
DEVELOPMENT

## Perelman Performing Arts Center at the World Trade Center - New York, NY

**Owner:** Perelman Performing Arts Center

**Architect:** REX

**Executive Architect:** Davis Brody Bond

**Public Agency Partner:** Lower Manhattan Development Corporation

As the cultural keystone and final public element in the 16-acre World Trade Center plan, the Perelman Performing Arts Center integrates unprecedented flexibility, accessibility, and resilience while remaining an elegant architectural expression of collective memory and hope. The Center appears as a pure, elevated cube wrapped in translucent Portuguese marble laminated within insulated glass. By day, its quiet dignity acknowledges the solemnity of the 9/11 Memorial; by night, the volume dematerializes and glows, revealing the activity within. Inside, robust timber, steel, and concrete finishes express the workhorse quality of the institution – a performance machine whose pioneering multi-form and multi-processional transformability allows creative teams to craft their desired artistic expressions and constantly surprise patrons with new circulation sequences and viewing experiences. To date, the Center has hosted performances in 68 configurations ranging from 80 to 950 seats. The building exhibits environmental stewardship and resiliency through a LEED Silver design that optimizes envelope performance, integrates efficient HVAC and lighting controls, eliminates outdoor water use, and tracks low-emission materials for improved indoor air quality. Resilience measures, including extensive watertight foundations, flood barriers, and structural hardening, protect both occupants and the adjacent infrastructure. The Center exemplifies how compact, flexible, and inclusive cultural infrastructure can reinvigorate dense urban sites worldwide and transcend tragedy through a public embrace of the arts.