

**Product:** Z-Bar Bird Pendant

**Location:** Concourse C Food Court, Midway Airport, Chicago, IL

**Designer/Specifier:** O'Kelly Kasprak Architecture/Interior Design and METIS Design

<https://koncept.com/Z-Bar-Pendant-Bird>

<https://koncept.com/Concourse-C-Food-Court-Midway-Airport>



The renovation of Chicago's Midway Airport Concourse C Food Court showcases a dynamic interplay of design and functionality, with Konzept's Z-Bar Bird Pendant light as a central element. Two prominent architecture firms, O'Kelly Kasprak and METIS Design, collaborated on this project, each bringing their expertise to overcome the unique challenges presented by the existing infrastructure. The same Z-Bar Bird Pendant was also utilized in Concourse A, further highlighting its versatility across different spaces within the airport.

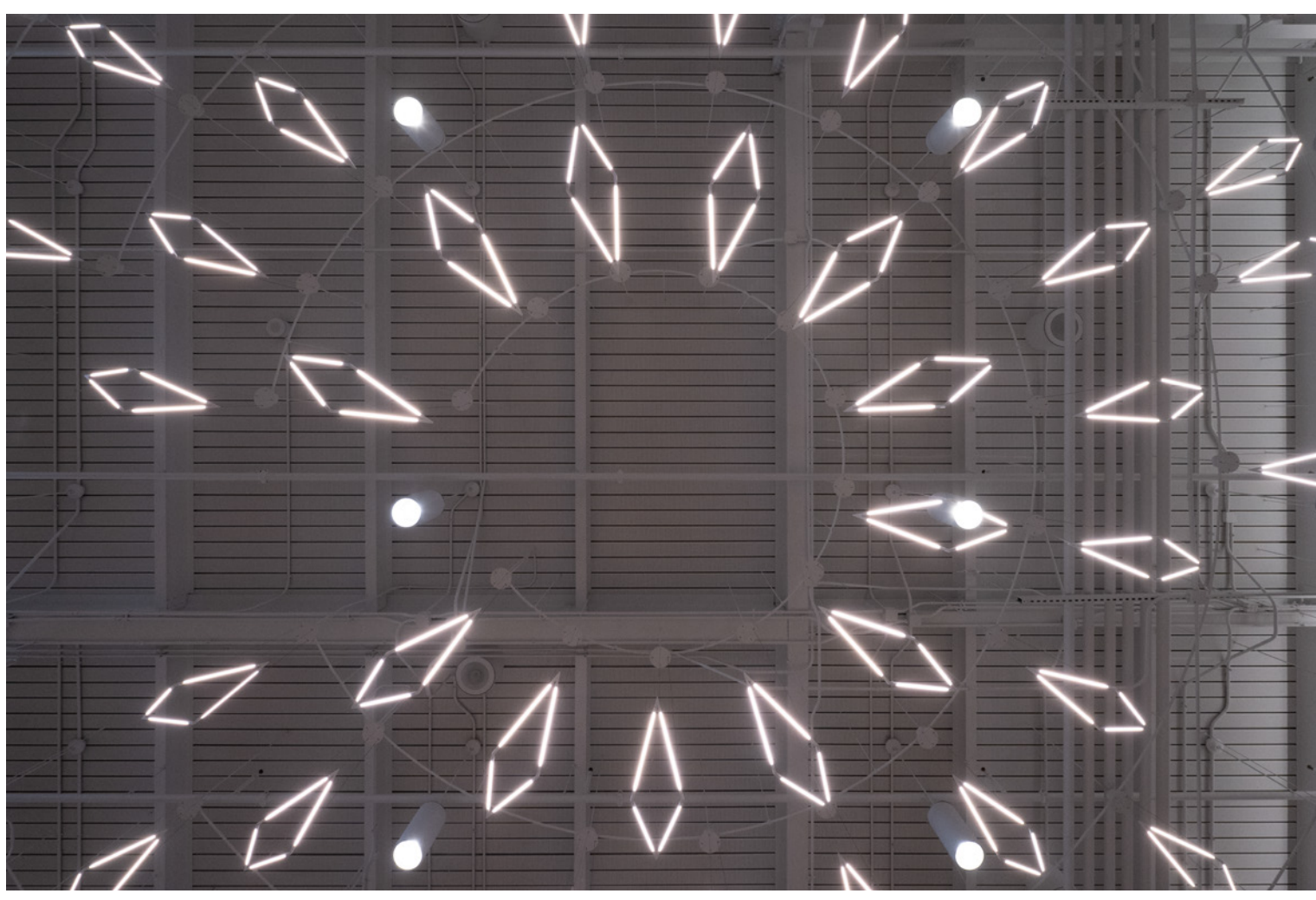
The design phase for Concourse C began in 2019 but experienced a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic. Work resumed in December 2022, and construction officially started in the spring of 2023, with the project reaching completion in November 2023.

Aqdas Qualls, the Lead Architectural Designer at O'Kelly Kasprak, described the challenge of working with open ceilings and finding the right configuration for the lights. The concept of a flocking design, inspired by birds in flight, was a creative yet challenging endeavor, particularly when creating a critical mass within the space. The firm aimed for a design that was both formal and fun, striking the perfect balance between the literal and abstract. The lighting design had to be aesthetically pleasing while maintaining functionality, with a focus on creating a consistent visual experience throughout Concourse C. Qualls emphasized the importance of keeping the design simple and ensuring that it complemented the unique personality of the concourse.

Anna Ninoyu, Principal Architect at METIS Design, faced the complex task of integrating the lighting design within the existing structure, which included varying ceiling heights and multiple light sources. Drawing inspiration from the natural phenomenon of murmurations, where starlings move in coordinated harmony, Ninoyu translated this dynamic movement into the architectural lighting concept. The challenge was to maintain the integrity of the design while accommodating the practical demands of the space. Through detailed light calculations, 3D modeling, and persistence in conducting multiple tests, Ninoyu's team achieved a design that not only met the functional requirements but also added a distinct aesthetic feature to Concourse C.

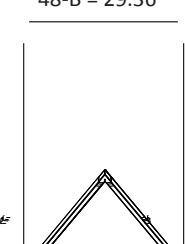
Integral to this design was Konzept's Z-Bar Bird Pendant, a versatile lighting solution that is available in a variety of standard configurations and sizes. The modular LED light bars are rotatable and dimmable, offering flexibility to designers. As an architectural lighting system, the Z-Bar Pendant allows for custom configurations, tailored to project requirements, through Konzept's dedicated web app. This adaptability made it an ideal choice for the unique lighting challenges presented by the Concourse C project.

Both firms highlighted the importance of maintaining a balance between design and functionality. They emphasized the need to stay true to the architectural vision while working collaboratively with contractors and clients. This project demonstrates the ability of thoughtful lighting design to transform a public space, making it both visually striking and functional. As Anna Ninoyu aptly put it, "Simplify, then add lightness," a principle that guided the successful implementation of the Z-Bar Bird Pendant in this complex environment.

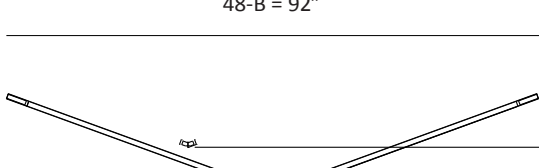


Z-Bar Pendant Bird Dimensions

16-B = 10.5"  
24-B = 14.68"  
36-B = 22"  
48-B = 29.36"



16-B = 34"  
24-B = 49"  
36-B = 70.5"  
48-B = 92"



16-B = 6.75"  
24-B = 9.375"  
36-B = 13.375"  
48-B = 17.375"

## Designer Spotlight

**Firm and Architect/Designer:** METIS Design, Anna Ninoyu, AIA (Owner/Principal Architect)

**Company Background:** "I founded METIS in 2017 following a career of 15 years as an architect & designer for Carol Ross Barney and John Ronan's architecture firms. Much like my mentors, my practice strives to provide high quality design with context and material exploration as my guiding principle."- Anna Ninoyu

**Website Link:** [www.metisdesignarchitects.com](http://www.metisdesignarchitects.com)

**METIS**  
DESIGN



**Firm and Architect/Designer:** O'Kelly Kasprak, David Kasprak -Principal in Charge, Aqdas Qualls - Lead Architectural Designer

**Company Background:** "We are a full-service architecture, interior design, and project management firm known for bringing a hospitality perspective to all types of commercial spaces. Our portfolio includes a variety of hotels, restaurants, bars, clubs, entertainment venues, sport and recreation facilities, theaters, corporate spaces, airports, retail stores, and specialty projects.

Founded in 2010, Belinda O'Kelly and David Kasprak lead our team of professionals through a proprietary design process structured to produce functional, beautiful, enduring and unique spaces. We pride ourselves on our design abilities, vast technical knowledge, enthusiasm for creativity, and providing exceptional service to our clients."- Belinda O'Kelly - Founding Principal

**Website Link:** <https://www.okellykasprak.com/>

**O'Kelly Kasprak**  
architecture | interior design | project management



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