



## Kid Architect Manifesto

Architecture should be exhilarating. Watching a dancer, the spirit dances... A city soars with soaring towers. Bold architecture emboldens the self and I am optimistic about architecture. But the “self” that architecture champions is an adult, a busy adult. Kids need architecture! I am a KID ARCHITECT! All day, kids are dragged through zones where they are the outsider—they have no cash for the marketplace or jobs for the highrise. Climbers are their built voice. Climbers embody their drives: celebration, curiosity, maniacal play, and spontaneous friendship—these are the concerns of children and these are the concerns of Luckey LLC. Climbing, crawling, meeting, and cavorting—this is what my architecture is about.

I am an idealist, and I pursue the highest level of aesthetic delight. Delight in beauty—beauty is the resonance of some fundamental thing, an eternal shared thing—having an “adult look”, a “kid look”, does not compute with out aesthetics. The beauty of our projects is shared.



**Luckey Climbers | History**

Luckey LLC was founded by Thomas Luckey in 1985 with a commission at the Boston Children’s Museum. When the climber he built in Boston proved to be their most popular exhibit, other commissions followed and his career flourished.

Spencer Luckey took over operations in 2006 after his father, Tom Luckey became paralyzed and has been responsible for the design, fabrication and installation of the climbers. While the head of Luckey LLC, Spencer has introduced digitally-based techniques for shaping and structural analysis; his work marks a departure from the analogue mode of his father. Of late, Luckey LLC has also expanded internationally.

**Client List | 2016**

The Village at Topanga Canyon - Los Angeles CA  
Play Discovery Center - Kuwait  
China National Children’s Museum - Beijing, China  
Little Oasis - Beijing, China  
Franklin Institute - Philadelphia, PA  
Liberty Science Center - Jersey City, NJ  
W5 Belfast - Northern Ireland  
Columbus Commons - Columbus, Indiana  
Children’s Museum of South Dakota - Brookings, SD  
Boston Children’s Museum, Boston, MA  
Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum - Reno, NV  
Rochester Museum & Science Center - Rochester, NY  
Kidspace - Jakarta, Indonesia  
Formel Fun - Bulach, Switzerland  
The Foote School - New Haven, CT  
Mountains Edge Park - Las Vegas, NV  
Providence Children’s Museum - Providence, RI  
Century City Mall - Los Angeles, CA  
Children’s Discovery Museum - Normal, IL  
Delaware Childrens Museum - Wilmington, DEv  
The Children’s Museum of Houston - Houston, TX  
The Magic House - St Louis, MO  
Lincoln Park Zoo - Chicago, IL  
Glazer Children’s Museum - Tampa, FL

Long Island Children’s Museum - Garden City, NY  
Children’s Museum of Winston-Salem - Winston-Salem, NC  
Illinois Children’s Museum - Dupage, IL  
Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh, PA  
Fox Valley Mall - Dupage, IL  
Oviedo Mall - Oviedo, FL  
The Jasmine Moran Children’s Museum - Seminole, OK  
Children’s Museum at Holyoke - Holyoke, MA  
The Children’s Museum of Memphis - Memphis, TN  
Museo Del Nino - Mexico City, Mexico  
Mckenna Children’s Museum - New Braunfels, TX  
Curious Kids Children’s Museum - St. Joseph, MI  
Gyeonggi Children’s Museum - Suwon, South Korea  
Science Center Singapore - Singapore  
Christ Community Church - St. Charles, IL  
Indianapolis Children’s Museum Indianapolis, IN  
Young at Art Children’s Museum - Ft Lauderdale, FL  
Wonderlab - Bloomington, IN  
Children’s Museum of Alamance County - Graham, NC  
Discovery Place - Charlotte, NC  
Kidspace Children’s Museum - Pasadena, CA  
Decatur Children’s Museum - Decatur, IL  
Lotte World South Korea - Seoul, South Korea







**Columbus Commons** | 2010  
Columbus, Indiana

Situated in a indoor public park at the Columbus Commons, this climber is an excellent example of the potential for synergy between the beauty of the climber and the architecture that surrounds it. We worked in close collaboration with the architect and landscape architect to design a climber whose stunning elevations have become an icon of Columbus, a city of world-class architecture in its own right. The design incorporates the graphic branding of the city onto the platforms in a colorful, confetti celebration, while platforms are generously sized so that visitors of all ages can comfortably enjoy the climber together.



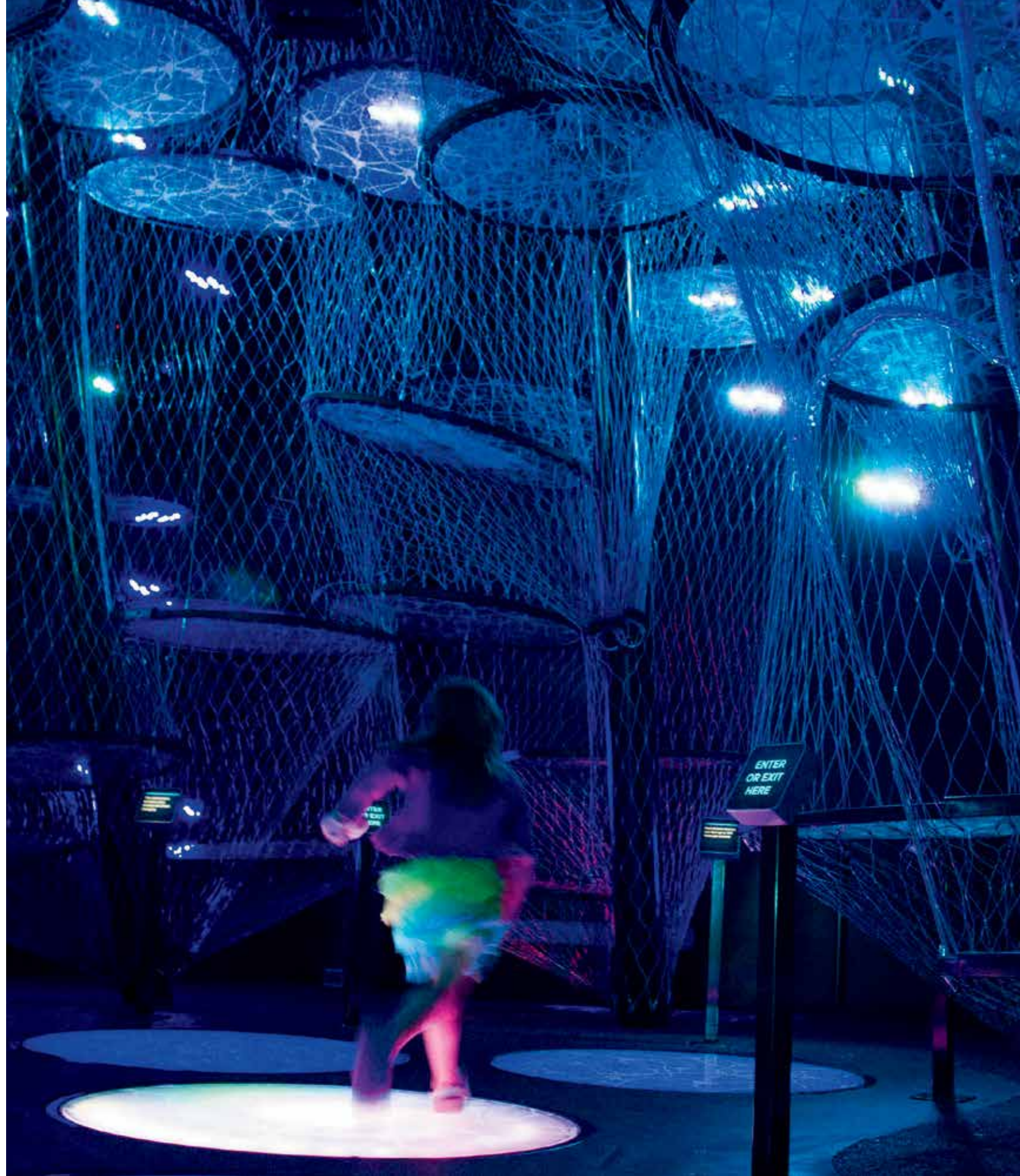






**The Franklin Institute** | 2014  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

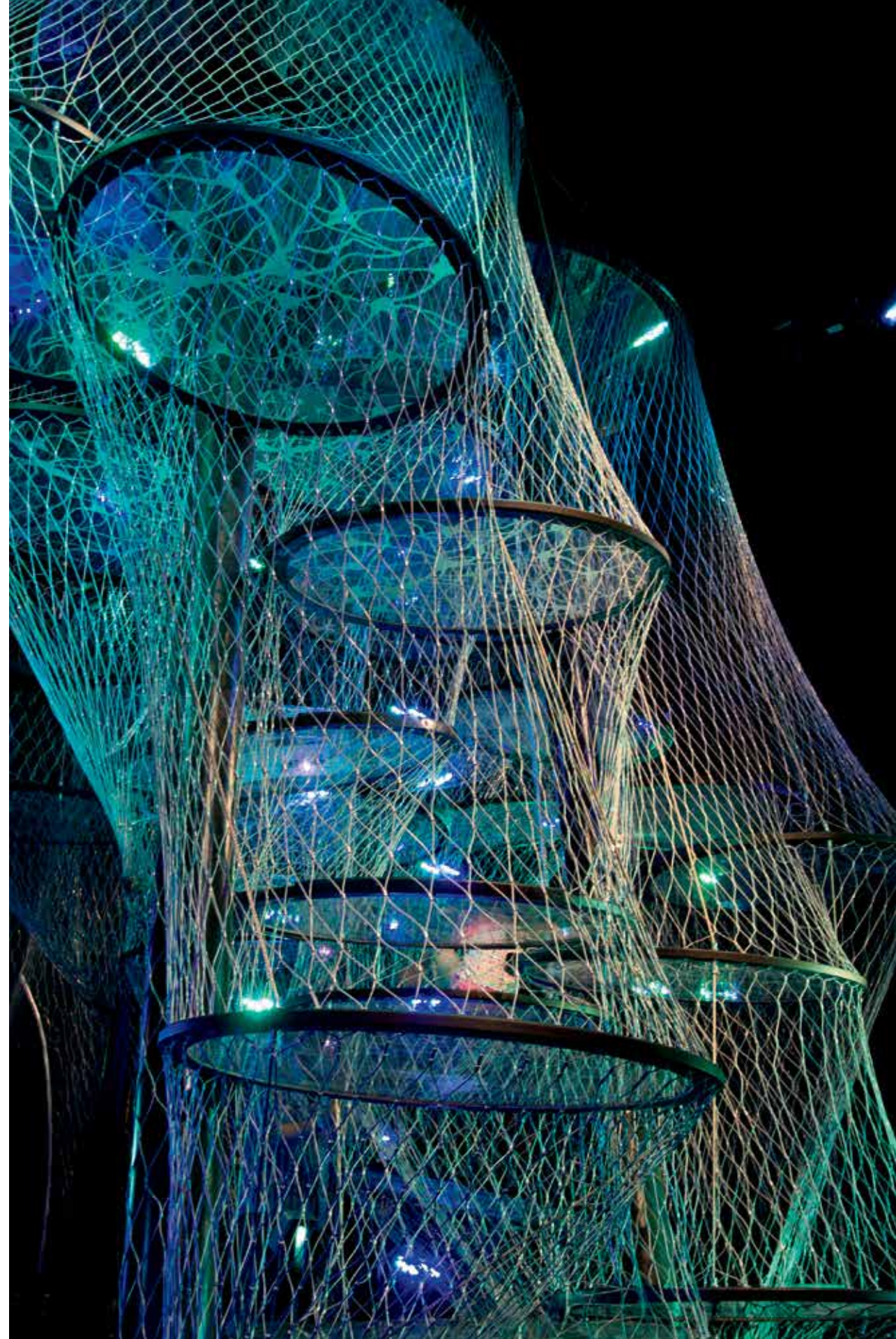
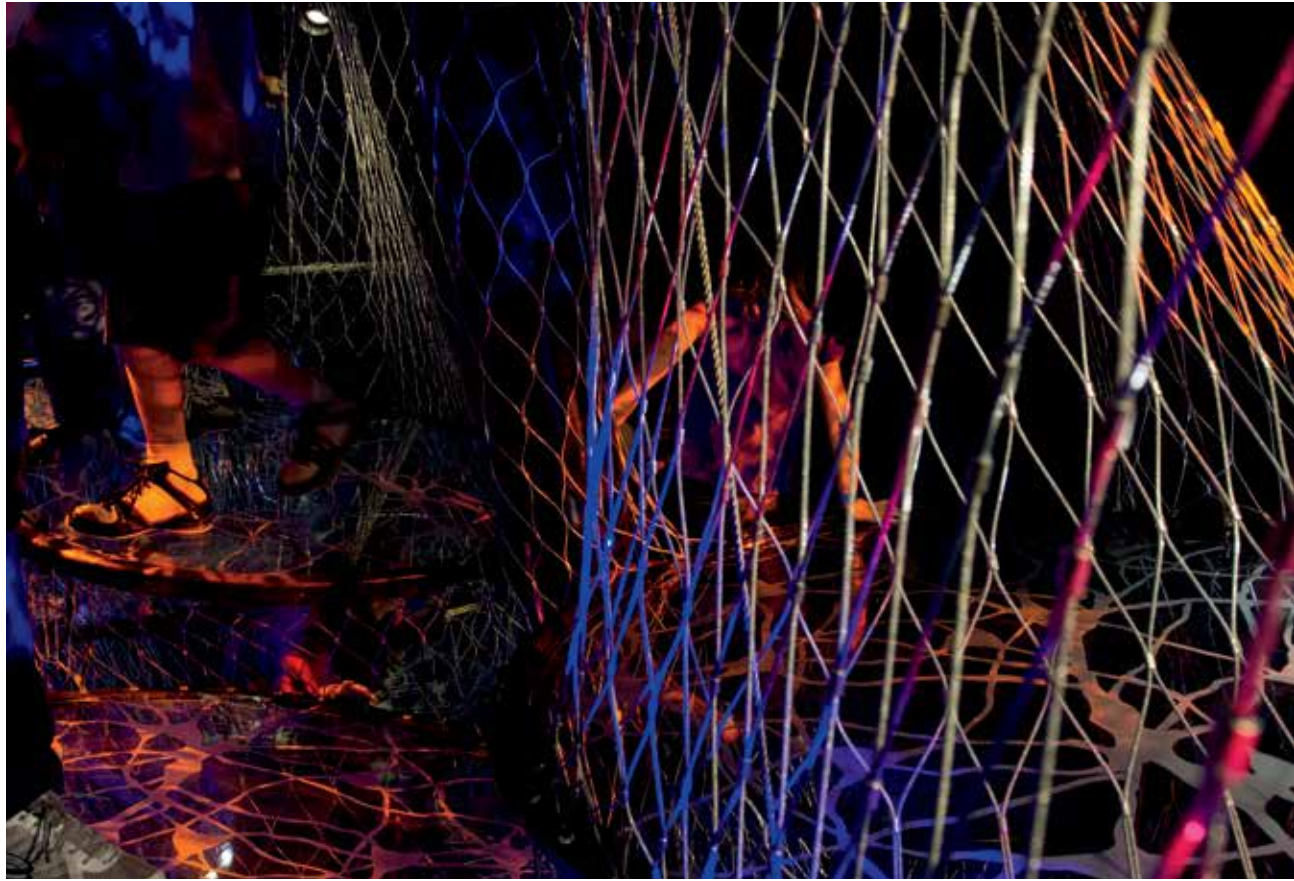
The Neural Climber is inspired by an interpretation of the visionary architecture of Piranesi's Carceri as a metaphor for the boundless interconnected complexity of the human mind. In his work, light and dark contest space in a drama which implies a grand edifice much greater than that which is visible. The mind is a precision instrument which operates in an expanse beyond comprehension; by episodic experiences ranging from scientific analysis to dreams we can only infer that it is large and powerful. The Neural Climber expresses these realities with glass and light. By varying opacity, glass emerges as a device which clarifies, reflects, and obscures. Lights projected in vibrant hues play off the forms of climbing visitors, electrifying the space with contrasts of motion and shadow. Visitors of all ages can comfortably enjoy the climber together.



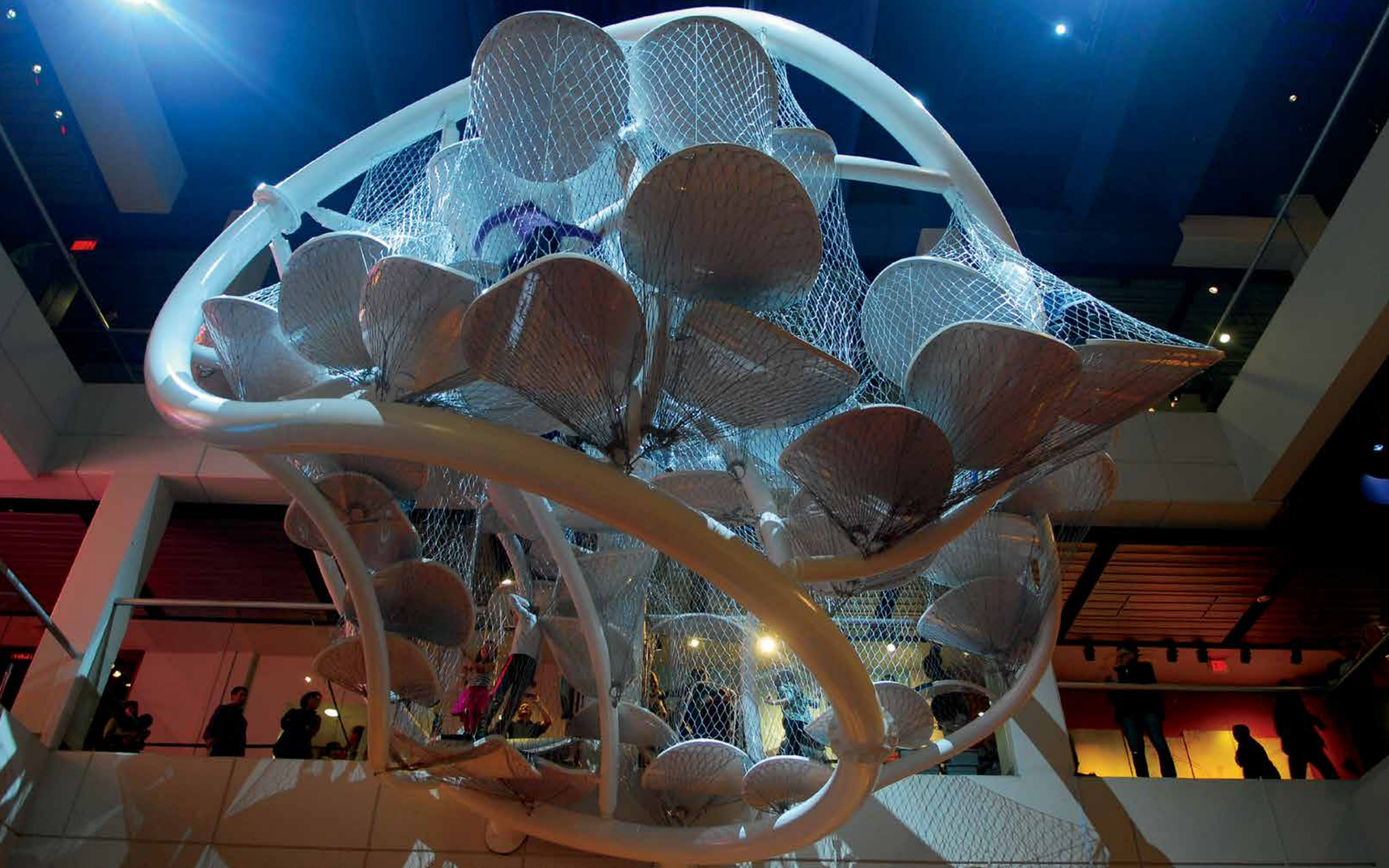












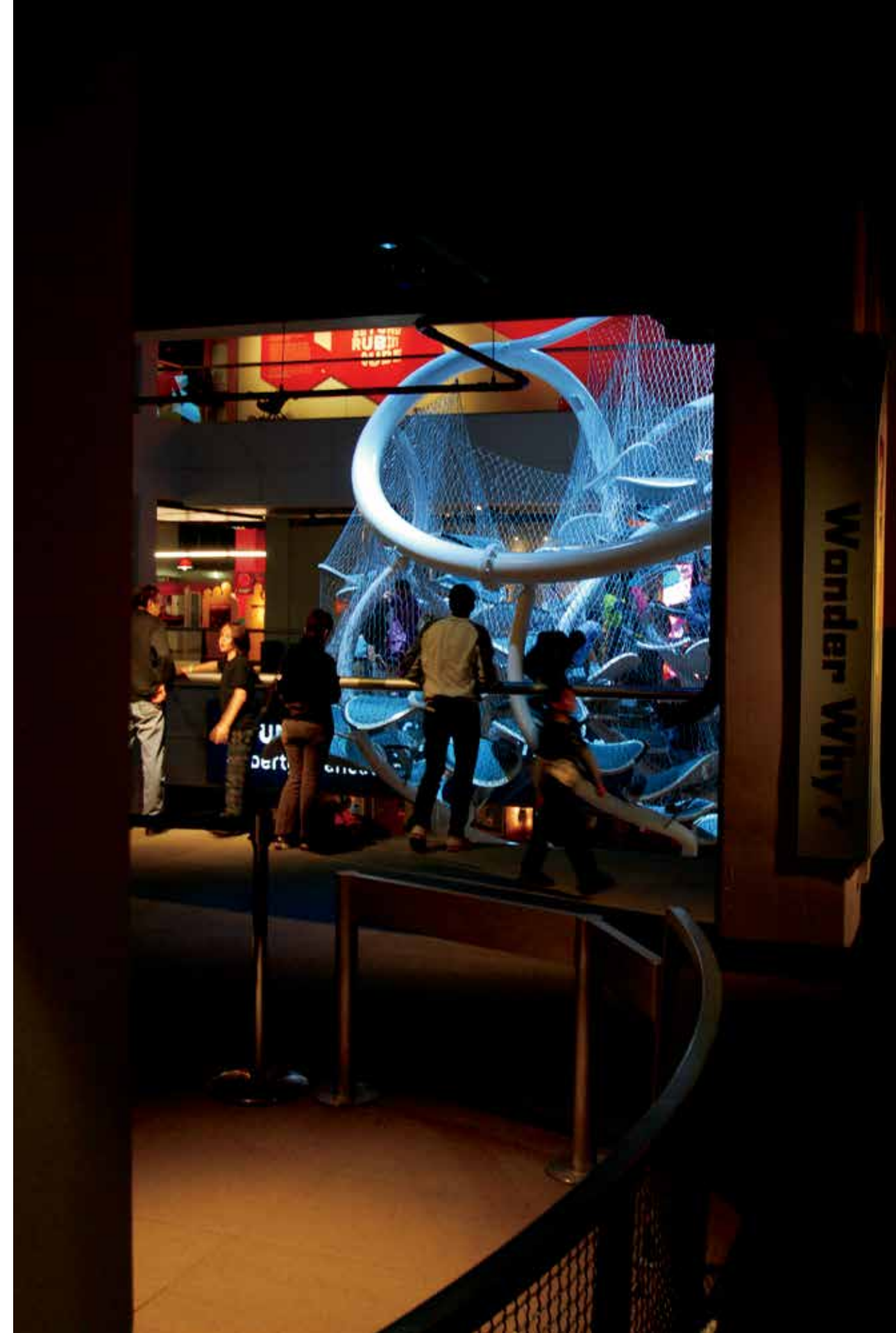




# **Liberty Science Center | 2014**

Jersey City, New Jersey

The Infinity Climber at Liberty Science Center was conceived as an expression of relativism. The continuous twist of the superstructure gives it many aspects. The climber, like differential calculus, freezes all variables but one. Visitors inhabit the variable; navigating meandering choices which bring about unique experiences of the space. Visitors can choose to get lost or find their way on an infinite circuit of routes which continuously deviate and merge with each other.





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**Boston Children's Museum** | 2007  
Boston, Massachusetts

The three-story New Balance Climb is made of flowing bent platforms which rise through the glass lobby of Boston Children's Museum, inviting children to scamper and scale this vertical maze. Children are challenged and delighted as they venture through this thrilling three-dimensional puzzle. Estimating space, planning moves, and looking for the best path are all part of the learning experience. Parents can join in as they follow the route alongside the sculpture, encouraging their children to find their way and try different paths, all while enjoying a fantastic panorama of downtown Boston.









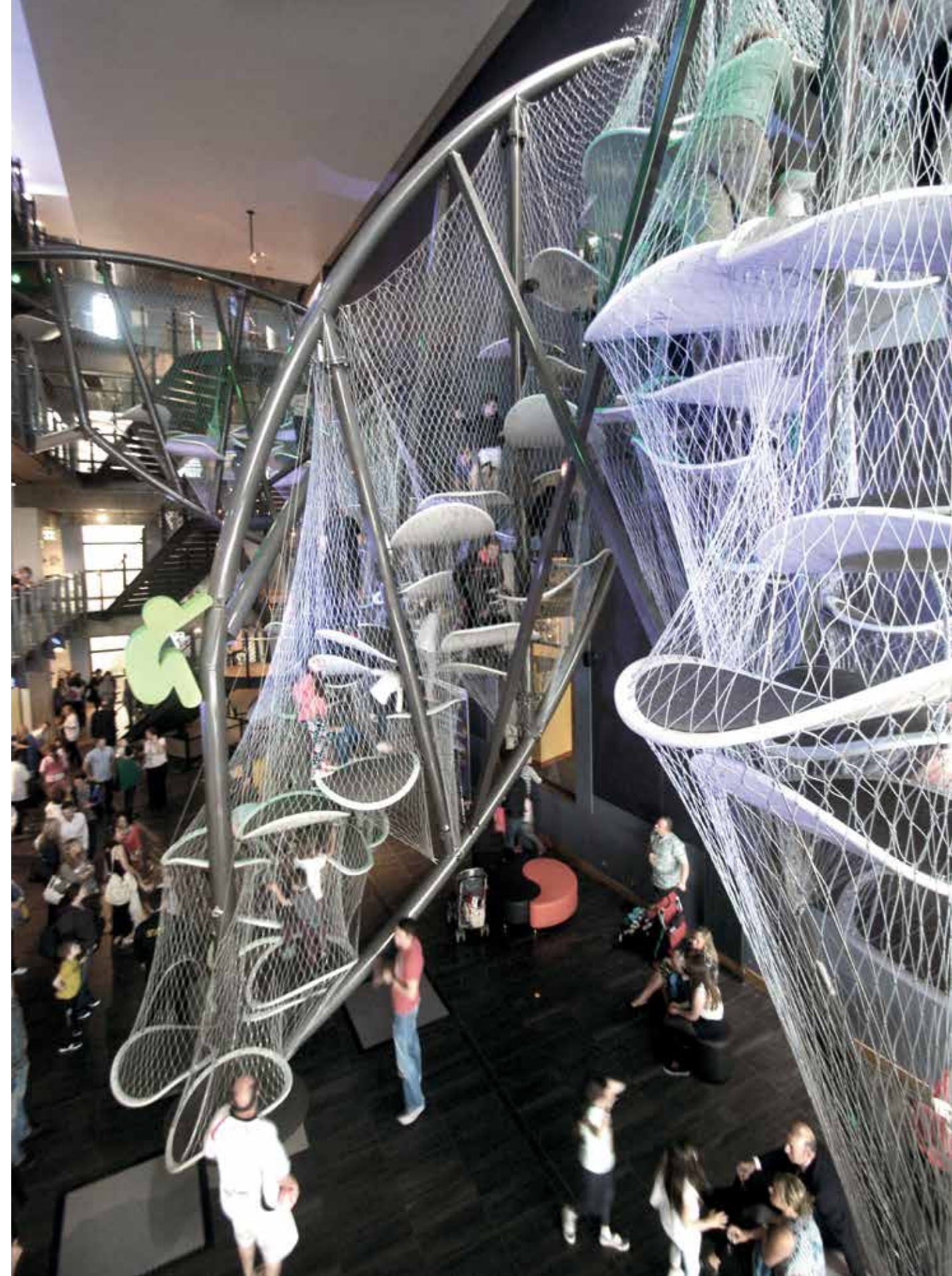


**W5 Belfast** | 2014  
Belfast, Northern Ireland

In a multi-story space bathed in Irish light, a Celtic dragon abstracted in steel invites children to climb the spans of its arched wings. One of the biggest climbers ever built, the structure dances through space with apparent disregard for the rectilinear architecture it occupies. It is, however, ingeniously configured to intersect with existing beams and columns where most suitable: a celebration of the symbiosis of building and sculpture.

















**Gyeonggi Children's Museum | 2013**

Gyeonggi, South Korea

The Three Straw Climber is our tallest, at 53ft-4in. The climber was conceived to evoke a child's construction made out of bendy straws. Visitors can access the climber from the ground floor or via the bridge on the second, stirring up dynamic flows of climbing traffic as the climber rises. Gravity is expressed by the dematerialization of density as the climber is stretched from a thicket of platforms at its base to a sparse aerie at its peak.











**The Village at Topanga Canyon | 2015**  
 Los Angeles, California

Sited to have a minimal profile from a distance, this climber looms above the main pedestrian thoroughfare at the Village at Westfield Topanga mall. The composition is meant to evoke a parent and nestling child. The pipes and platforms take their hues from abutting trees, while some platforms are fabricated from luminous plastic which gives the climber an other-worldly quality.











**China National Children's Center | 2015**  
Beijing, China

This climber occupies the courtyard of the China National Children's Center, a building which was once the private house of Mao Zedong's fourth wife. The structure is a steel coil which terminates at either end in tails which bend in opposing directions, inspired by taijitu symbol (yin and yang) and the strokes of chinese calligraphy. The platforms are hand-stained in vibrant colors resembling fireworks.











**Formel Fun** | 2014  
Bülach, Switzerland

The Formel Fun climber, in Bülach, Switzerland, is inspired by the dynamism and the kinetic energy of play. With its 'zigzag' body, this climber represents the movement of a gigantic, rubber ball that bounced between floor and ceiling, activating the airy light-filled room with sharp angles and colorful discs.











**Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum | 2010**  
Reno, Nevada

The Cloud Climber's lofty cloud-shaped platforms and swirling white helices contrast with darting blue rays of precipitating steel to sculpturally create a rainstorm into which visitors can safely climb. It towers over an exhibit describing the cycles of water in Reno's high-desert ecosystem, a cycle which bears on the survival of a community where water is sometimes scarce and rainclouds are often a blessing.









