

# Project Buzz: Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton by Felderman Keatinge

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LA-based law firm [Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton](#) by [Felderman Keatinge](#).



This LEED-certified, three-year project for this prominent law firm was a logistical monster: it involved shuffling fully 1,000 employees off of floors and then back onto them after they'd undergone renovation. The original interior afforded no continuity between floors, no sense of cohesiveness, and the lighting was very poor, with little or no sunshine reaching most of the workspaces. The client did, however, have a very good art collection, which proved a valuable asset for FKA's redesign.



FKA's goal was to foster interaction between floors, between offices, and between individuals. The design team added stairways, placing the 43rd-floor reception area and conference rooms along the perimeter of the floor, beside the windows, to take advantage of the daylight. The designers opened up view corridors, long vistas down the hallways that established a sense of visual unity. Where much of the office space had previously been bundled into the middle of the floor, now only private offices ring the core, along with other service functions.



Regarding the overall aesthetic, the designers wanted to communicate a sense of prestige and understated elegance that would impress upon the law firm's clients the innovative nature of the firm. They got the message across with a contemporary, sculptural, interactive, and light-filled environment that highlights a complex interaction between transparent, translucent, and opaque architectural elements. FKA chose a basic palette of white walls, light and dark woods, and accents of middle-tone earth colors for carpeting and upholstered furniture that helped dilate the sense of space and offer a clear foreground for the expansive views beyond.

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