The National Museum of African American History and Culture is the newest Smithsonian museum and occupies the last building site on the National Mall. The building is wrapped in 3600 bronze-finish decorative panels which form a corona inspired by the three-tiered crowns used in Yoruban art from West Africa. As the only non-white building on the Mall, it was decided early on that the building needed to be lit for a suitable nighttime presence. The challenge was to develop a design that captured the dignity of the building, its prominent location while being responsible to the budget and environment.