



# River of Light





We were approached by Mel Chantry of Milligan to undertake the manufacture and installation of an unusual light sculpture at Manchester Airport, having worked with Milligan before on projects within the Metquarter in Liverpool.

Working for main contractors ISG, this unique 47m long 'River of Light' forms a flowing focal point for the refurbishment of the retail and restaurant area of Terminal 1.

The sculpture consists of a series of 16 aluminium tubes of between seven and five metres long, suspended from the ceiling by steel cables. Between three and five thin steel arms are cantilevered out in a 'random' fashion from each of these 'mothership' tubes, each steel arm housing a 'socket' at the end into which a 1.5m medium blue EncapSulite fitting was inserted. Each EncapSulite consists of a fluorescent tube inside an acrylic diffuser tube with a coloured gel creating the blue hue. With 71 of these fittings flowing over the 47m length of the installation, the overall effect is indeed that of a sweeping 'River of Light'.

Because the design specified non-standard fittings, our electrical workshop manufactured all the fittings to suit, resulting in a bespoke package, completely faithful to the design specification. We also undertook all associated rigging, with a small team of three or four personnel on site for a few weeks. Due to the restrictions of working in a fully operational airport, our team was only permitted to work at night, with all work being carried out around the many other refurbishment contractors on site.