

Gaviidae Common

Location	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Total Area	319,000 square feet 30,000 square meters
Date of Completion	1989
Client	BCE Development Properties, Inc.

Located in the center of downtown Minneapolis, Gaviidae Common upholds the traditions of the best buildings in the city. The building is well integrated into its surroundings. A skybridge above the main entrance connects Gaviidae Common to the City Center, and a second skybridge links Gaviidae to the IDS Crystal Court and the city's skyway system of enclosed pedestrian bridges. The complex also adjoins Norwest Center, further integrating into downtown. The skybridge over Nicollet Avenue, which connects Gaviidae Common with City Center, was designed as public art by Cesar Pelli in collaboration with artist Siah Armajani.

Gaviidae comprises five levels of retail and two-and-a-half levels of below-grade parking. Saks Fifth Avenue anchors the building and occupies a portion of four levels. The interior is a dramatic five-story atrium defined by a dark blue grid of exposed structural steel. Rising above the atrium is barrel vault decorated with a geometric blue pattern with gold-leaf accents. A skylight at the center of the vault brings natural light into the space. Within the entry space, an illuminated glass-block stair links the street level and skyway. Floors are surfaced with illuminated glass block and marble, and ceilings feature stenciled patterns. A public gathering space dominates the fifth and top level.

Gaviidae Common is clad with a highly detailed, warm beige French limestone, with soft-green slate at the base and applied as accents on the façade. The entry is marked by a large patterned glass wall flanked by stone piers inset with decorative light poles. Storefronts and exterior fixtures are of bronze and dark green metal. The street-level storefronts have bay windows, and additional clear glass bay windows rise two stories above the street. A stone-and-glass turret marks the major entry to Saks, the turret's bronze detailing and translucent awnings welcome pedestrians into the store and Gaviidae.

