Landscape Forms and Studio 431 at Barclays
Barclays Center is the Big Apple’s newest arena, home to the NBA Brooklyn Nets and host to blockbuster concerts. Ellerbe Becket and SHoP Architects designed the LEED-Silver certified building, which is dramatically defined by three encircling bands, a glass curtain wall covered by a latticework of steel panels, and a large “oculus” over a section of the main entrance plaza containing an LCD screen that loops around the inside of the structure. Studio 431 engineered and constructed the custom seating for the plaza and surrounding streetscape. The plaza seating is a complex geometry of wood seats mounted to angled cast-in-place curved concrete planters laid out in a sweeping oval. Studio 431 engineers used laser scans of the cast concrete wall to engineer the parts for more than 20 separate sections in which each piece of Ipe wood and stainless steel support is unique in shape. The close collaboration between Studio 431, developer Forest City Rattner and SHoP Architects was a dream partnership with players who understand how great design draws people to a site.