ACE Submission for Douglass Colony Denver Art Museum

As a 70-year-old landmark for the city's arts and cultural attractions, the iconic Denver Art Museum (DAM) is undeniably a work of art.

When dealing with such a powerful landmark that is already so conceptual and artistic in form, Douglass Colony saw the importance in honoring the Museum's current creativity with our own innovative solutions—and that's exactly what we did. Douglass Colony designed a roof system built to last 100 years over the ellipse shape of the building and finished it off with hand-fabricated scalloped panels. Each and every part of this project brought a new, exciting challenge.

Solutions to Special Challenges/Problems

The DAM project is shaped like a circle, but not a perfect circle, which made the roofing and panels a creative challenge. Douglass Colony leaned on our past experience working on the dome of the State Capitol building to come up with the perfect solution. Our team was able to determine the similarities between the two projects and demonstrate how the Capitol had several finished qualities that met the criteria for the goals of the DAM. Douglass Colony utilized a similar approach to materials and used our previously learned knowledge from the State Capitol Building installation to successfully create a fully functional true piece of art.

The panel system for the top of the circular ellipse was designed in a fan shape. However, due to the oblong and inconsistent shape of the roof substrate, each panel had to be uniquely fabricated and finished onsite. The fan turned out beautifully, but it also needed to be functional for the museums practical needs. Douglass Colony designed and hand-installed a custom snow guard system. The triangular snow catches add to the aesthetics of the roof and serve their purpose.

In addition to the uncommon shapes and materials the DAM location also brought a handful of challenges due to a tight construction site and neighboring landmark buildings such as Civic Center Park, the Denver Public Library, and the existing Denver Art Museum that cantilevers over 13th Avenue.

Project Execution and Management

A project that bears such enormity and importance to the city of Denver such as the DAM, requires excellent management and execution to be successful. When the Project was hit with an unpredicted delay thanks to Colorado's unpredictable winter weather, Douglass Colony quickly put forth multiple crews who worked together seamlessly to create a temporary roof system until the needed final structure was completed.

Months later when the permanent structure was completed, Douglass Colony jumped into action and worked dual shifts to fabricate materials in order to hit expedited delivery dates on a daily basis. It took creative outside-the-box proactive thinking to meet the schedule. Douglass Colony utilized our project team who had successfully completed many other high profile downtown Denver projects to ensure this project was another success.

Construction Innovation

Drawing inspiration from the existing architecturally inspiring DAM structure, Douglass Colony combined uncommon materials like zinc coated copper with inventive design to create a truly memorable addition to this important Denver landmark.

With its heavy emphasis on hand fabrication and craftsmanship that could not be achieved using machinery, Douglass Colony achieved this significant construction by employing the same crew that worked on the Denver State Capitol. This team's experience and expertise was an undeniable asset to the project's success.

Environmental/Safety

Safety is a top priority for Douglass Colony on every project and the DAM Project presented additional challenges that had to be carefully observed throughout its entirety.

Our crews worked exclusively out of secured man lifts and at one hundred percent tie off for this project. Protection of employees and materials were important due to the building's meticulous nature, large use of concave glass, and the copper standing seam roof. The location and materials

onsite created temperatures with heat readings that measured up to 140 degrees Fahrenheit, which made certain applications unsafe and impossible at differing times of the day.

Even though the zinc and copper materials brought significant challenges, they were well worth the environmental trade off. Being natural elements, both can be recycled, but won't need to be anytime soon, as these materials will last hundreds of years.

Excellence in Client Services and Contribution to the Community

Being one of the top 20 most attended art museums in North America, the innovative and inspirational addition to the DAM will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the Colorado community and beyond. As a centerpiece in Denver, this new construction will blend seamlessly into the current art piece that is the DAM and help to continue its legacy as an architectural work of art for many years to come.