

Category: 8 - Best Building Project - Specialty Contractor Non-MEP (Under \$2 Million)

Specialty Contractor: Living Design Studios

Project Name: Remodel of the Sheraton Downtown Denver, Plaza and Tower buildings by PWI Construction with Johnson Nathan Strohe (JNS), studioINSITE (landscaping)

Overview Statement:

Living Design Studios was selected for this project due to our niche in the industry of creating unique custom metal work with distinctive patinas and finishes. We embraced the high-end, boutique hotel design inspiration from JNS, which allowed us to produce artful and original work throughout the main level and exterior of the Sheraton Downtown Denver Plaza building and interior of the Tower building. Each space in the hotel has its own personality with elements of copper, brass, and blackened steel. Living Design Studios accomplished the design intent with exceptional metal work throughout the hotel.

Project Narrative:

The most impressive feature in the lobby is the coffee bar awning. Measuring 21 ft. in height and 19 ft. in width, it is the central focal point when entering the hotel. The steel structure is finished in faux dirty-penny copper, featuring ribbed glass panels set at slight angles, adding shimmer to the space. Living Design Studios' metal work in the lobby includes faux copper reception pods, the reception wall art feature with wood slats, the faux copper framed fireplace surround, blackened steel handrails in the elevated seating area, and the balcony glass guardrail surrounding the stairs with blackened steel hardware and handrails.

Around the corner, the entry to the Bezel Bar is a massive, blackened steel portal with the bar name and logo waterjet cut on one side. The frame system within the portal houses mesh in a brass patina and the true brass pull on the pivot door is waterjet cut with the bar name. Inside the space, a free-standing drink rail contains framed mesh with brass drink trays on one side and a stone counter with a brass footrail on the other. The back bar has a faux brass shelving unit with glass shelves for bottle storage and seating at the bar has a footrail and brass toe kick. Living Design Studios wonderfully paired true brass with a darker faux brass patina and the results are stunning, adding dimension to the monochromatic color pallet.

The Member's Club private space combines blackened steel with antique brass patina in the stylish shelving unit and cabinets at the bar. The peninsula counter has a teardrop, organic shaped base seamlessly wrapped in blackened steel. The privacy screen had several design iterations, landing on a modern geometric design in blackened steel.

The exterior has been renovated to include the main entry courtyard where Living Design Studios created 11 trapezoidal planter boxes in varying heights, powder coated in dark bronze. On the 16th Street Mall, an exterior screen wraps the entrance and continues vertically for 32 ft. A diamond pattern was formed with aluminum flat bar riveted together in sections and powder coated in metallic copper. The guardrail outside the Bezel Bar extends seating into the exterior mall and is designed with a similar diamond pattern and powder coated in dark bronze metallic.

Prior to demo of the Plaza building, the Tower building underwent minor renovations and Living Design Studios provided the reception wall art feature with wood slats and hardware with brass patina. The main level handrails and stair to the second level has refinished brass handrails and a blackened top cap on the glass that brought the guardrail to code compliant. The chrome handrails on the second level were refinished in a blackened patina.

Living Design Studios was honored to partner with the contractor and design team to provide 17 metal features in the Plaza and Tower buildings. The renovation shines with the detail of the metal work and patinas, bringing the inspiration of a high-end boutique hotel to life.







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