

Gold Key Award Application - Hudson

Description: 450 word minimum

The project is the brainchild of Ken and Chris Himmel, their team at Himmel Hospitality and their chef-collaborator, Michael Lomonaco. From the outset, the goal was to create a large high-volume restaurant which delivered great food quality in an engaging, energetic environment. Service was to be fast paced but not rushed and catering to a diverse community of diners, from families visiting from out of town for lunch, couples living locally for dinner, shoppers and single diners during the work week and on the weekends. To accomplish this task, they imagined a restaurant built around fixed tables of seating, for the most part, two, four or six guests maximum, to ensure that servers were not challenged with a changing landscape of tables or overly large parties of diners. The interior experience was to be grand on first impression as suits a restaurant of almost 250 seats. But they also wanted the table experience to be intimate, marked by beautiful materials, great art and the buzz of an open kitchen. The 10,000 square-foot project completed in March 2019 was designed to bring the liveliness and allure of the city into a comfortable dining space.

The restaurant embodies NYC's vibrant energy, more specifically, the burgeoning Hudson Yards neighborhood it resides in, and showcases bright colors and an expansive selection of modern art throughout the restaurant.

The restaurant features a large open-kitchen, combined booth and table seating, a custom-built island bar and an intricate wooden trellis suspended above the dining area. Black granite floors and deep walnut walls are complemented by red leather-clad booths, and bronze and copper accents, creating a warm atmosphere that feels familiar the moment guests arrive. The grill's front, on a retail concourse, promises a respite from the sleekness of the retail development. A screen of dark-stained wood louvers, with bright colors filtering through, hints at an interior recalling an energetic Manhattan.

The lighting plays a major role in creating a sense of intimacy, directing pools of light on table-tops and accenting the artwork against a purposefully dark background. The contrast of that lighting with black painted ceilings, black-granite floors, and dark walnut walls provides a feeling of privacy at each table with a focus on specific artwork in each restaurant section.

Hudson Yards Grill's art collection, curated by Melissa Twomey of VisionArt Consulting, offers guests a gallery like experience with over a dozen paintings and sculptures by acclaimed artists such as Sol Lewitt and Damon Hyldreth. Bentel & Bentel Architects had few walls or windows within the space, so the creative team used large murals and bright pops of color to create boundaries and borders within the restaurant. These art installations serve two purposes - enhancing the overarching visual experience while also defining the space and creating a sense of place for guests. Specific paintings that connect guests with New York City and the historic Hudson Yards neighborhood include a vibrant mural of the Hudson River by Carole Bolsey. These strategic art selections create virtual windows to the surrounding neighborhood.

The architects have a strong belief that art is not decoration on a wall, but can define a space, giving it both character and spatial identity. In addition, the color of a piece can change the perception of an interior space. If properly deployed, art can create an opening in a windowless wall or a focal point for restaurant patrons to distinguish their seating area from those around it. Sculpture, in particular, is a powerful spatial modifier which can operate without an adjoining wall. As such, it is an important type of artwork which brings color and scale to the center of a space rather than to its perimeter.

General Information

Project Name: Hudson Yards Grill

Project Location: 20 Hudson Yards, Fourth Floor, New York, NY 10001

Project Type: New Build

Interior Design Firm

Firm Name: Bentel & Bentel, Architects/Planners AIA

Name of the individual submitting the entry: Bentel & Bentel, LTD

Email Address: inquiries@bentelandbentel.com

Title: Interior Designers

Firm Address: 22 Buckram Road Locust Valley, NY 11560 USA

Architecture Firm

Architecture Firm Company Name: Bentel & Bentel, Architects/Planners AIA

Architecture Firm Contact Person Full Name: Paul Bentel

Architecture Firm Contact Person Title: Partner

Architecture Firm Address: 22 Buckram Road Locust Valley, NY 11560 USA

Purchasing Firm

Purchasing Firm: The Cardy Group

Purchasing Firm Contact Name: Sharon Calmers

Purchasing Firm Contact Title: Purchasing Agent

Purchasing Firm Contact Email: sharon.chalmers@thecardygroup.com

Purchasing Firm Address: 1220 Yonge Street, Suite 300 Toronto, ON M4T 1W1

Client Information:

Client Firm Name: Himmel Hospitality Group and Chef Michael Lomonaco

Primary Client Contact (Full Name):

Primary Client Email Address:

Client Address:

Entry Contact Information:

Name of the individual submitting the entry: Destiny Bates

Your Company Name: Bentel & Bentel, Architects/Planners AIA

Your Phone Number: 516 676 2880

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