Q1 Newsletter

NEWH ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

TWENTY SEVENTEEN BOARD INTRODUCTION
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OPENING NIGHT PARTY
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FRIDAY RECEPTION
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REI ROCK CLIMBING
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE DENVER UNION STATION TOUR
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE DUELING DENVER NIGHT OUT
The 2017 NEHW Leadership Conference started with a bang on Thursday evening with the opening party, hosted by the Rocky Mountain chapter.

After a full day at the product showcase, attendees were invited to mix-and-mingle, Colorado style. The event consisted of food and beer pairings to highlight the beer-crazy culture of the host state. Guests munched on gourmet soft pretzels, sliders, and meatballs while indulging in an array of beers thoughtfully selected to complement each food item.

While at the party, attendees also had the opportunity to make pretzel necklaces, a favorite tradition of the local Great American Beer Festival. With beer and Colorado culture serving as the backdrop for the night, the relaxed nature of Rocky Mountain chapter was evident as guests got the opportunity to kick back and enjoy catching up with old friends, and making new ones. The goal of the event was to make the out-of-state guests feel right at home in Denver, judging by the many smiling faces and full
Leadership Conference Friday Reception

Our Friday evening reception was held in the spectacular Main Lobby of the Renaissance Denver Downtown, which occupies the former Colorado National Bank Building. Our very generous sponsors for this lavish evening were Marquis Seating, P/Kaufman Contract Fabrics and Mitylite, Inc. The event opened with a VIP Reception for the first hour, during which designers were invited to network with Owners and Sponsors, after which time the doors opened to all attendees. Colorado specialties in both food and beverage were featured, and there was great live music as well.

Attendees from around the country came to trust one another and tackle climbing routes of varying difficulties. By the end of the afternoon, we were achieving new heights together - literally!

Thank you to REI Denver for hosting our group and all the participants who decided to push outside their comfort zones.
The Denver Union Station tour was a very inspiring and educational tour guided by Kristin Hutton and her team. The tour began with a welcome from Denver Union Station developer Dana Crawford. The hotel pays homage to Dana Crawford, Denver's seminal preservationist.

She shared stories about design decisions, such as the benches in the main terminal space, or Great Hall – affectionately called “Denver’s Living Room”. Ms. Crawford didn’t like the benches and wanted them removed, however, they had to stay for historical preservation. During renovations they found asbestos and so all but two benches were removed. When the benches were taken out, old artifacts were found under the benches such as newspaper clippings, coins, etc.

Ms. Crawford had a vision of seeing the Great Hall being used as Denver’s Living Room. The large community tables and seating clusters, offers a space for everyone. People at all times of the day will stop in to use this space, just as Ms. Crawford had hoped.

If you haven’t taken the time to see Denver’s Union Station and Crawford Hotel – well what are you waiting for?

Other design elements spoken about were:

- 1 million dollars were spent on acoustics in the Great Hall
- The chandeliers in the Great Hall were crafted from photos of the original chandeliers inside Union Station.
- The Terminal Bar sign sits just above the original ticket window. During renovations the window was found under a layer of drywall, and was restored for the Terminal Bar.
- Before the remodel Union Station was only two floors, now it’s four floors.
- A 2nd floor was added between the original ground floor, and old office floor. The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors house the 112-room boutique hotel.
- The 3rd floor rooms were given a greater design direction from Ms. Crawford, which included balancing the large windows with large finishes – headboards, lampshades etc.
- The speakeasy inspired bar on the 3rd floor, Cooper Lounge, offers handcrafted cocktails and a design that mixes glamour and nostalgia.
- During renovations the staircase leading from the 3rd floor to the 4th floor was covered with plaster. Once the plaster was removed, a beautiful railing was revealed.
- The 4th floor rooms were once an attic space, which is why large timber beams can be seen throughout the living space, bedroom, and bathroom.
Saturday night’s “Dueling Denver Night Out” event, hosted at Kevin Taylor’s at the Opera House in Denver’s downtown Performing Arts Complex, was the perfect way to bring the 2017 Leadership Conference to a close. Guests celebrated in style at this incredible setting, being ushered in from the cool Colorado night and prompted down the grand marble staircase, only to emerge into a bustling yet intimate subterranean level venue. This 11,600 sf salon is where pre-theater cocktails and dinner are served on evenings with performance. The ceiling overhead twinkled with the night’s sky worth of star lighting, and the walls were adorned with original and vibrant opera costumes individually framed and lit in such a way that they exuded the drama and story behind each. All of this set the stage - quite literally - for a pair of dueling pianos to provide interactive entertainment throughout the evening. An exquisite menu of fresh and local food and beverage was presented by the Colorado native and award winning Chef, Kevin Taylor and his restaurant group. From lamb to eggplant and a bit of everything in between, a number of delicious passed hors d’oeuvres encouraged guests to migrate and mingle to begin the night. With libations in hand, everyone was able to enjoy a variety of curated seating vignettes clustered throughout the room.

A warm thank you to the furniture sponsor for the evening, Merchants Office Furniture, who provided their new line of West Elm seating and occasional tables. The talented and lively pianists from Howl 2 Go by Denver’s own Howl at the Moon, kicked the night up a notch with everyone undoubtedly singing and dancing by night’s end. The opening number rang through Kevin Taylor’s at the Opera House just after the dinner buffet was served. And from song requests, to crowd favorites like “Sweet Caroline”, there was absolutely no shortage of enjoyment in celebrating an evening full of the arts, design, and music.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter truly appreciated the great attendance at the closing event and was encouraged to hear such great feedback from the Product Showcase and Leadership Conference as a whole. What an incredible three days it had been of sharing passions, honoring scholarship, indulging in inspiration, and developing industry connections in the Mile High City of Denver!
A special thanks to our annual chapter sponsors:

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