

# COMMUNITY // HERITAGE CENTER

The Community Center + Heritage Center (Denver Place) are spaces that support the retrofitting of art, the craft of beer, and the opportunity for growth. 4Block Estate has renovated Denver Place into another multi-purpose building to serve a post-COVID19 economy with new purposeful standard of design located in the city of Denver, CO.

What makes up Denver? Who makes up Denver, and why are people migrating to this location? Denver's demographic is seeded from 31% Hispanic, 11% African American, 50% White, 3% Asian, 1.3% Native American, and 3% multi. Denver is a blue state and dominantly democratic. The people of Denver in particular are advocates for change, acceptance, and unbiased support for others. The people of Denver remain in this city and many move for the sports, the politics, the landscape, and the opportunities.

Denver Place pursues a reflection on its people: resilient, adaptable, and forward thinking. We as humans tend to forget we too are animals in which we share these same attributes. If anything, the pandemic has showed us that we are just as capable. The big horn sheep traverses in a Z shape for sturdiness, stability, and to preserve strength. The mustang is another herd animal with strong legs, agile, and free. The lark bunting is a bird that is vocal, moves and lives in flocks, monogamous, and directs south for the winter. The mountain lion is rarely seen, has the ability to live in any ecosystem, rock climbers, and agile. The prairie rattlesnake is a solitary reptile and traverses in a rectilinear locomotion. The last animal studied is the bison, or also known as a buffalo. This nearsighted creature is constantly moving + eating.

The goal of these spaces is to create a multitude of environments for varying people that share a similarity towards kindness, non-judged perspectives, and drive to learn + experience. All of this to say that the sentiment is for safety, well-being, and an objective sentence.

The root of the design takes precedent with principals such as line, form, texture, color, space, and light. The design facet of line is used minimally and sparingly throughout the baseboard detail. This is indicative to not overpower form, space, light, color or texture. Form and texture take strong precedent in each individual floor plate to represent the native animals described above. For instance, the first floor is modeled after the big horn sheep and to match the natural landscape this animal thrives in. The sixth floor reflects the lark bunting bird by using hard surfaces to replicate their vocalist behavior. On the same floor, the custom overlapping white arches is an abstract form of a bird's bone to reiterate structure and form. Color is another minimal attribute to again - not overpower the artwork being celebrated. Space is a forefront design element that emphasizes processional movement. Lastly, light is comprised of both natural and artificial. Natural is for a connection with the outside world and artificial is to highlight the focus of conversation: art, history, and culture.

In terms of the specific spaces, the community center is broken up between a quieter space with a library and agile study/work spaces. The second part is the louder space with offices to facilitate the employees of the community and heritage center, an open conference room to house seminars, meetings, etc. Additionally, the louder section includes a classroom and a larger open-space for a variety of community events.

The specific spaces of the heritage center are all art and culture focused. This center serves as any traditional museum with a twist: flights of local beer. The intent is for art to represent what was, beer to facilitate conversations of what is, and the five floors to host a home for what can be.

Denver Place is a simplistic designed environment to welcome those that want an experience, meet new perspectives, and gain insight on spaces that provoke an inner caring voice.

