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2006 Design Contest

Winners revealed 34

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The 2006 Surface Fabrication Design Contest

Once again our call for creative designs was heard around the world, and a flock of fabricators came flying in. This year the entries have raised the bar even higher, and the winners have stretched their imaginations as well as the boundaries for solid surface.

It isn't a race to become head of the pack, but a team effort we are all involved in to pull the whole industry forward. All of this year's entries have done just that.

Going through all of the submissions, it was hard for us just not to get swept away by the great variation and innovation this industry is experiencing. With so many new shapes, functions and territories our entries have trekked, it was even harder to decide on winners. Before announcing them, we would like to stress that all our entries have gone above and beyond the call of duty as surface fabricators.

Best Overall Design

Gene MacDonald
Creative Arts Unlimited
Pinellas Park, Fla.
Project Name: Hilton Hotel "feathersound" Carillion Park
Project Location: St. Petersburg, Fla.

Scope and Objectives

The project was to create a solid surface bar out of Avonite Blue Glass Series that lights up (see **Figure 1**). The bar was 4 in. thick and had to wrap around and pair well with a mosaic tile column while staying lit, and a 4-in.-wide, 1/4-in.-deep strip had to be routed along the work side of the bar for drink mats after the bar was seamed up on-site. The glue lines where the solid surface was fused together remain dark when the bar is lit, which creates an appealing two-color look. The project also included back shelf panels out of the same material that were to light up for holding and displaying glasses. The back work bar below the shelves was not made to light up, which adds to the two-color look.

Challenges

The most challenging part of the project was the lighting itself, putting neon lights under the Avonite along the whole bar. In particular, the mosa-

ic column the bar was to wrap around was the most challenging obstacle to both create from the material as well as illuminate with neon lights. Another challenge to the project was that the top was to be 4 in. thick.

Solutions

To light the bar, 1/2-in. white Plexi was used to fuse the lights and then was topped off with the Avonite and seamed on-site. Because it is difficult to thermoform Glass Series to wrap edge around, pieces that were one and a half times the radius were cut out and stacked up seven and a half times to go around the mosaic column. Dani-clamps were then used to hold all the edges in place for gluing. (see **Figure 2**).



Figure 2

Figure 1

