

CASE STUDY

OMNI HOTEL

2025





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EXPANDING THE OUTDOORS AT THE OMNI HOTEL: A CUSTOM PLANTER SOLUTION

In urban hospitality settings, outdoor spaces are becoming increasingly vital for enhancing guest experiences and driving revenue. The Omni Hotel is set in downtown San Diego across the street from Petco Park Baseball Stadium. It is an extremely high-traffic area, making the need for a secure barrier instrumental in this design. Bringing outdoor dining to the Omni Hotel required a solution that provided both security and aesthetic appeal. When the Omni Hotel in San Diego sought to expand its sidewalk dining area, it needed a solution that balanced functionality, security, and aesthetics while meeting city safety standards. This project was more than just a design challenge—it was an opportunity to redefine the hotel's outdoor experience with a secure yet flexible infrastructure that created an inviting perimeter.



Project Scope and Goals

The Omni Hotel partnered with the world-renowned interior design firm Jeffrey Beers International to envision and create an inviting outdoor space that seamlessly blends form and function. The goal was to design an elegant yet practical dining area that expanded usable space while maintaining a cohesive aesthetic with the hotel's sophisticated architecture. The project also required the creation of a secure perimeter that adhered to city safety standards, ensuring the comfort and protection of guests.

To meet the demands of an urban environment, the design incorporated durable, high-quality materials capable of withstanding daily wear and exposure to the elements. Additionally, the space needed to provide design flexibility while allowing for seamless transitions between daily operations and private events. This ambitious scope called for a thoughtful approach, balancing aesthetic refinement with practical considerations while adhering to local regulations for sidewalk dining.



CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

The primary challenges included:

- 1. Compliance with City Regulations:** The perimeter design needed to meet strict safety and structural standards without compromising on aesthetic quality.
- 2. Durability and Security:** Materials had to withstand constant exposure to the elements and heavy daily use while providing a secure boundary for diners. The high-traffic impact of the location made durability a key priority.
- 3. Flexibility:** The planters and associated features had to allow for future adjustments in layout while remaining visually cohesive with the hotel's architecture.

Innovative Solutions by Planters Unlimited

Planters Unlimited leveraged its dual expertise in planters and custom metal fabrication to deliver a comprehensive solution. By maintaining all manufacturing capabilities in-house, we streamlined the process and ensured design precision at every step.

1. Integrated Manufacturing Capabilities

- We provided a planter barrier system that bolted together but was also on casters, allowing it to be moved when needed. The system was semi-permanent — secure enough to meet city guidelines but designed for flexibility, such as cleaning and layout adjustments. Strategic engineering ensured that the planters adapted to the concrete slope, creating a level, continuous curved line despite being built on a non-level surface.

2. Material Selection for Longevity and Security

- **Fiberstone Planters:** Lightweight yet durable, Fiberstone was chosen for its ability to withstand weather exposure while maintaining its sleek aesthetic. The Chenza finish provided a contemporary look that harmonized with the Omni Hotel's design.
- **Steel Fabrication:** Instead of just using "high-quality steel," we focused on our precision manufacturing capabilities. Our team custom-crafted the metal screens to fit seamlessly within the gate structure. Every screen was precision-cut to fit perfectly while maintaining a look and finish that aligned with the hotel's brand. Additionally, the gate was designed to meet city code—while it served as an exit, it was not the main exit, allowing for functional flexibility in compliance with regulations.



3. Mobility and Modularity

- Hidden casters allowed planters to be repositioned with ease, giving the hotel flexibility to adjust the layout for various dining configurations.
- A custom locking system ensured planters could be securely connected, providing a stable and compliant barrier that met city safety standards. While the planters were designed for mobility, they also locked into place to create a secure, robust barrier suitable for a densely populated, high-traffic area.

4. Adaptable Privacy Features

- The removable metal screens, fabricated to fit seamlessly into the planters, offered both aesthetic and functional benefits. These screens enhanced privacy for diners and could be adjusted or removed to accommodate operational needs.

Project Impact

The final design transformed the Omni Hotel's sidewalk into a dynamic, secure, yet flexible dining space that adhered to city safety standards while elevating the guest experience. The integration of Fiberstone planters and custom steel elements created a robust yet adaptable perimeter that complemented the hotel's architectural style.

Unlike traditional permanent barriers, the planters were designed with mobility in mind. While they were built on casters for easy removal, they also featured a lockable system that provided a stable and secure boundary when in place. This design achieved both security and flexibility, a critical factor for an urban setting. The solution's modularity provided unparalleled flexibility, allowing the hotel to reconfigure the layout as needed. The use of high-quality materials ensured long-term performance, reducing maintenance requirements, and enhancing the space's value over time.



Why Planters Unlimited?

Planters Unlimited's ability to provide both planters and custom metal fabrication in-house was a pivotal factor in the project's success. By combining these capabilities under one roof, we streamlined coordination, reduced lead times, and delivered a cohesive solution that seamlessly aligned with the client's goals.

Our expertise in designing and manufacturing custom planters set us apart. With extensive knowledge of planter materials, we carefully select the right options to ensure durability, longevity, and visual appeal. Beyond aesthetics, we adapt our manufacturing practices to meet specific site conditions, ensuring that every piece is not only functional but also fully compliant with project requirements.

Our capabilities extend far beyond color and texture customization. We excel in crafting intricate shapes and styles, offering unparalleled flexibility to address unique design challenges. This adaptability allows us to deliver planters that not only complement but also elevate the surrounding environment.

Clients choose us for more than our technical expertise. They trust our ability to stay on budget, meet tight timelines, and bring their vision to life with precision. This commitment to excellence ensures that each project is executed with the utmost care, delivering results that consistently exceed expectations.



Key Takeaways for Design Professionals

1. **Integrated Solutions Streamline Complex Projects:**

Working with a manufacturer that offers both planter and metal fabrication capabilities can simplify project execution and improve outcomes.

2. **Material Selection Matters:** Combining Fiberstone and steel ensures a balance of aesthetic appeal, durability, and security for urban landscapes.

3. **Flexibility Enhances Usability:** Modular designs with features like removable screens and movable planters provide long-term adaptability for evolving needs.

4. **Compliance and Design Can Coexist:** Meeting city standards doesn't mean sacrificing aesthetics—thoughtful design can achieve both.

The Omni Hotel project showcases how integrated solutions, and high-quality materials can transform outdoor spaces into functional, compliant, and visually compelling environments. Planters Unlimited demonstrated the value of combining technical expertise with creative design by delivering a secure, yet adaptable dining solution that meets safety and aesthetic standards.

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