

LAKE PLACID LODGE

LAKE PLACID, NY

THE CHALLENGE

Rebuild the 1882 Lake Placid Lodge after it was ravaged by fire to recreate the patina and aged traditional appearance in a new building at one of America's most exclusive retreats.

THE SOLUTION

Develop a comprehensive and thorough design and construction collaboration effort to recreate the grandeur that was the original Lake Placid Lodge.

DESCRIPTION

The new 25,000-square-foot lodge was to be built in the same style as the original structure – a traditional Adirondack rustic cabin with heavy timber framing, intricate twig work finishes, and 17 uniquely designed and crafted indoor and outdoor fireplaces. The Lodge includes five guest rooms with private balconies, each suite designed and furnished in a distinct style using wood paneling. Finishes included imported French oak flooring and finely detailed grouse and pinecones hand-carved in butternut. Other features included a 70-seat formal dining room and dining porches, a large full-service restaurant kitchen, conference facilities, a library with large columns of yellow birch installed with the bark intact, an expansive wine cellar, and a pub. Local materials were used in the recreation of the building as well as furniture, furnishings, and art. The intricate railings of the porches were fashioned out of sticks and twigs found in the surrounding woods.



The desire to have all of the wood finishes in the building appear as though they were installed over 100 years ago immensely complicated the finish process. To achieve a worn, hand-hewn look and feel, Pizzagalli used its own work forces to manually distress and sand each board. The level of treatment depended on the application of the particular board in the finished building: stair rails and balusters received one type of treatment to replicate rough use; wall paneling a smoother, worn-looking treatment; and exposed timber framing yet another to make the beams appear hand-hewn. Since there was no specification for these finishes, and no way to purchase pre-aged and distressed millwork, it was left to Pizzagalli to figure out a way to make it happen – and we did.



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