



The iconic Maroon Bells mountains near Aspen in Colorado.

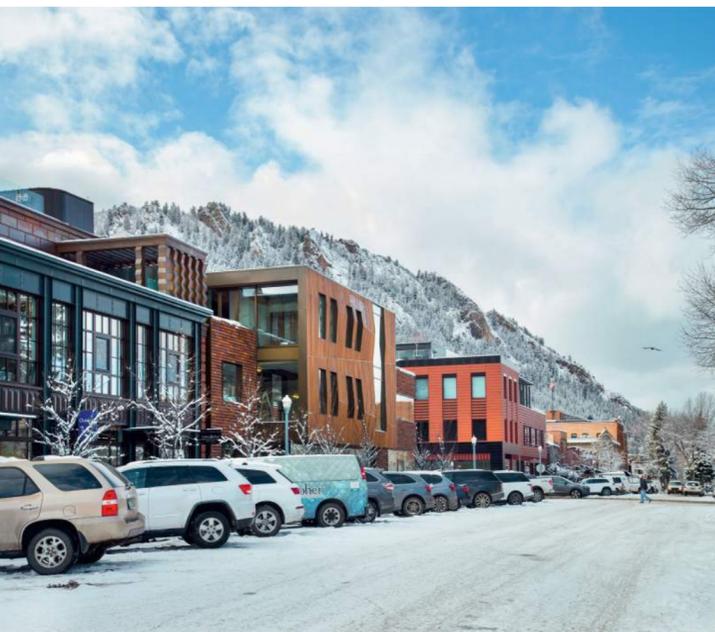


Ski enthusiasts from around the world are drawn to the terrain around Aspen.

The varied heights and sense of movement in the brick façades make Victorian Square a beautiful addition to the city centre.



One inspiration behind the use of brick was the surrounding terrain, with its beautiful red cliffs, mountains and rich soil.



Project architect Bryan May of Rowland + Broughton.



THE QUALITY IN NATURAL MATERIALS

THE NEW BUILDING'S FAÇADES COMBINE BRICK AND WOOD. PETERSEN TEGE ASKED LEAD ARCHITECT BRYAN MAY OF ROWLAND+BROUGHTON ABOUT THE CHOICE OF MATERIALS AND HOW THE PROJECT TOOK ACCOUNT OF LOCAL HISTORY.

Tell us about the considerations behind the decision to combine brick and wood on the façades

There were many reasons why tile was chosen for Victorian Square. Historically, Colorado's mining towns have undergone various stages of architectural development. The earliest structures were simple, efficient, and affordable wood-framed homes and commercial buildings. As a town further developed, brick and stone were introduced and became symbols of prosperity, wealth, and permanence. Even today, you can travel through historic mining towns throughout Colorado and roughly gauge a town's prosperity based upon the ratio of masonry to timber-clad architecture.

Another driving force behind the decision to proceed with brick was the local context. Aspen is surrounded by natural beauty, notable for its red rocks, soil and mountains, and so the city has a rich history of building in red sandstone and brick. Victorian Square's neighbour, the Aspen Core building from 2014, is clad with red terracotta and was another source of inspiration for our decision to use brick.

How did you hear about Petersen Tegle?

We discovered Petersen Tegle back in 2012, when we were looking for innovative new materials not previously used in the US. One of our earliest goals was to create a building that spoke to the zeitgeist of its time. For us, that meant we needed to break new ground

to simultaneously create something that felt deeply rooted in Aspen while also turning traditions upside down. Cover met that need.

In autumn 2016, I visited Petersen Tegle, met the team and even made a brick myself. It isn't every day you come across a team of true craftsmen with such a profound passion for what they do. We did explore many brick options, including others in the red range, a few greys, some Kolumba lines, and a few schemes where we mixed and matched Cover with Kolumba. In the end, we knew the simplicity of a well executed Cover installation would be an incredibly powerful architectural statement.

Why did you also opt for wood cladding?

Along with brick, wood is the most common building material in Aspen's short, yet storied architectural history, but it has been a while since it was last used for a commercial project. We think it is important to bring wood back to downtown, to remind us of our roots. We chose African mahogany for its durability, because Aspen is 2,500 metres above sea level and has high UV exposure. Visually, its warm colours complement C48's, rich, rusty reds in the most beautiful way. It also picks up on the colour of the woven façade on the nearby Aspen Art Museum, designed by Shigeru Ban.

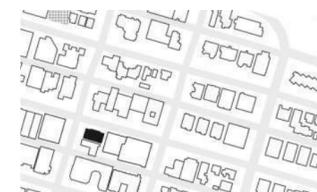


The architects and client chose to combine the tile with African mahogany, the warm colours of which beautifully complement C48's rust-red shades.

Victorian Square, residential and commercial building in Aspen, Colorado, USA

Client: Private
Architect: Rowland+Broughton Architecture
Contractor: GF Woods Construction
Engineer: KL&A
Landscape architect: Connect One Design
Completed: 2017
Brick: C48
Photo: Brent Moss
Text: Ida Præstegaard, architect

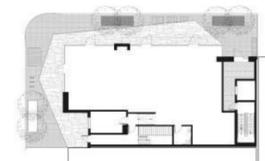
The penthouse apartment affords a fantastic view of the mountains.



Site plan



Section



Ground floor plan

You have previously said that the bricks evoke memories of the famous Colorado mountains known as the Maroon Bells. Could you elaborate, please?

Ever since 1951, when Ansel Adams first took photographs of the Maroon Bells, these peaks have become one of the most photographed landscapes in the country, making them iconic symbols of the American West. They are composed of sedimentary layers of mudstone – an oxidised, ferrous stone with strong parallel stratifications and a rusty color range. The saw-toothed layup of the Petersen Cover was a perfect conceptual and aesthetic match.

How would you sum up the most important features of Victorian Square?

While the building is not organic in form, it does have very tangible, organic inspiration. I think the building is a fine example of art through craft – what the ancient Greeks would have called techne. You can see the hallmarks of each craftsman in every aspect of the design, from the hand-made bricks to the shaped mahogany. Collectively, the building is about accepting the natural variation in materials and elevating that variation to its own perfect art form.

Victorian Square is a new building on the busy corner of Hyman and Hunter Street in the famous ski resort of Aspen, Colorado. The 825-m² building has two shops on the ground floor, offices on the first, and a penthouse apartment. Construction began in 2012, and the project was completed in November 2017. In general, building is a time-consuming process in Aspen, where the local authorities and the residents are highly protective of this historic and beautiful city. In addition to extensive restrictions on size, height, etc., new buildings are also subject to a stringent approval process, to ensure that they fit in with the general aesthetic of the surrounding streets' shopfronts and façades.

Victorian Square at the corner of Hyman and Hunter Street houses two shops on the ground floor, offices on the first floor and an apartment at the top.

