

CONFLUENCE AWARD

The Lougheed Building - 604 1 Street SW, Calgary

The Lougheed Building renovation artfully marries a heritage landmark with exceptional design. Innovative and historically compelling, it is positioned to reclaim its role as a major contributor to city building and help revitalize the downtown core.

Located in the heart of Calgary's commercial centre, the Lougheed Building was conceived as the most progressive building in the city when it was built in 1912. The Chicago Style architecture, defined by a steel frame and masonry cladding with sandstone details, allowed for larger glazed openings and more natural light. The design embodied a sense of optimism in Alberta's economy and has housed some Calgary's most influential businesses.

The Lougheed Building renovation brings this magnificent building back to life, reimagining the space to attract the forward-thinking tech, advertising, media, information, and creative companies that will shape the next chapters of Calgary's economy.

The renovation focuses on highlighting the building's interesting and beautiful old-world details, while considering what today's leading-edge organizations look for: a variety of spaces to support diverse work styles; spaces designed around the health and well-being of employees; accessibility; sustainable design; and second-to-none amenities.

A new entrance from 6th Street opens to a larger, open lobby—ideal for gathering or working—and a corner café. Original exposed brick and artwork that features the building's early 20th century ironwork offer heritage moments in the modern space. The penthouse tenant lounge and new rooftop patio foster community and ideation by providing space for chance encounters and collaboration.

The office floors have been renovated with the infrastructure for modern companies to set down roots and have room to grow. In the basement, a fitness facility, spacious locker rooms, and secure bicycle storage encourage movement, health, and wellness.

At the heart of the building is the star of the renovation – a newly accessible historic five-storey lightwell that had been sealed off for decades. Windows into the lightwell were carefully removed to create portals that balconies emerge from, allowing people to walk out into the light-filled space and interact across floors. Bridges across the lightwell create a connection to a central community kitchen space and gender-neutral washrooms. A new glass elevator shuttles people from the basement through the lightwell all the way to the rooftop patio, making for a fully accessible and beautiful journey from top to bottom.

The second floor of the building is a protected heritage resource and one of the few places in Calgary that retains untouched, century-old character. The terrazzo floors, marble walls, transoms, and light fixtures are all as they were when the building was constructed.

Other beautiful details, like intricate metal railings on the staircases and plaster and marble work in the entry foyer are preserved throughout the building.

The Lougheed Building embodies the idea that history does not end, but rather opens to the future. The renovations illustrate the continuum of our collective identity as a city; it is a place where we can remember what we have been and celebrate who we can become.