



At-A-Glance

A Houston landmark receives an update worthy of its prestigious origin.

CASE STORY

JPMorgan Chase Tower at 600 Travis Street Houston, TX

About the Project

The iconic 75-story skyscraper at 600 Travis Street in Houston—now known as JPMorgan Chase Tower—was designed by world-renowned architect I.M. Pei. Its plaza also boasts a significant steel and cast-bronze sculpture by the Spanish surrealist Joan Miró, *Personage and Birds*, the artist's largest piece ever commissioned. Since its completion in 1981, the tallest building in Texas remained essentially unchanged until

2020, when owners Hines and Cerberus Capital Management announced they had hired HOK to complete a transformative project for the exterior plaza and first and second-floor lobbies.

Design Goals

HOK reevaluated the front entrance of the building and aimed to not only modernize the interior spaces but also revitalize the plaza to make it a destination for downtown Houston.

Hines' Kim de la Fuente, asset manager; and Nicole Boudreau, project manager, worked with HOK's team which included Roger Soto, design principal; Elizabeth Baxter, architect; and Jim Halloran, design director. Halloran explained that one of the overarching goals was to turn the ceremonial plaza into an area for people to gather and enjoy meeting in. "We really challenged our team to think, 'What would Pei have done if he was here?'" said Halloran.



Solution

To accomplish their design goals, HOK added a glass pyramid structure to the front of the lobby (inspired by the pyramid at the Louvre Museum in Paris, also designed by Pei), renovated the entire atrium lobby, and created a lounge space and gallery on the first floor.

HOK wanted entrance flooring solutions that would blend seamlessly into the

building's porcelain floor and help avoid needing to roll and pull up mats daily. They enlisted CS to provide Gridline, Gridline+, and G4 products at the building's entrances and the perimeter of the atrium floor, citing the products' high quality and ease of material use. Selecting Gridline+ on the edge of the perimeter "provided a continuous slot for HVAC and access, and allowed us a beautiful, wide

architectural accent with a nice clean line," said Halloran.

The lobby and plaza now offer visitors sleek, modern areas to congregate, and the renovation may have even played a role in enticing JPMorgan Chase & Co. back to the building after being elsewhere for several years.

