



Endures the Elements at Wyoming's Jackson Hole Airport

Flying into the recently expanded Jackson Hole Airport (JAC), Jackson, Wyo., is a breathtaking experience. It's the only commercial airport located within a U.S. national park, Grand Teton National Park, and its panoramic views of the Teton mountain range to the east and the Gros Ventre (Big Belly) range to the west are awe-inspiring. That beauty, combined with the innovative use of cypress in its recent renovations, makes the airport a traveler's delight. But the successful make-over was not without significant challenges.

"One of our challenges was preordained by Grand Teton National Park," said Gensler architect, Brent Mather, Design Director and Senior Associate of the Denver office. "Buildings couldn't be higher than 18 feet to ensure unobstructed views of the mountains."

A more daunting task was selecting durable materials that could withstand Wyoming's drastic winter weather—dry and often reaching minus 30 degrees Fahrenheit—while adding beauty and aesthetic warmth to the project. Carney Logan Burke Architects, a local firm, helped Gensler select materials suited for the area's climate and vernacular.

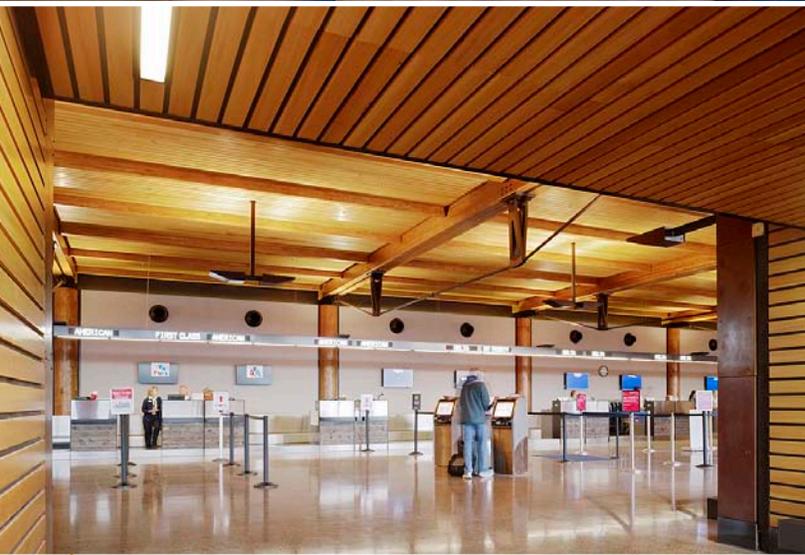
The design team wanted to utilize wood's natural attributes on the building's exterior and interior. "We originally specified Douglas fir, but after consulting with a leading manufacturer of acoustical ceiling panels, we substituted it with cypress, which is considered more rot resistant," explained Mather. "The extreme weather exposure of the exterior was the major driver behind the change."



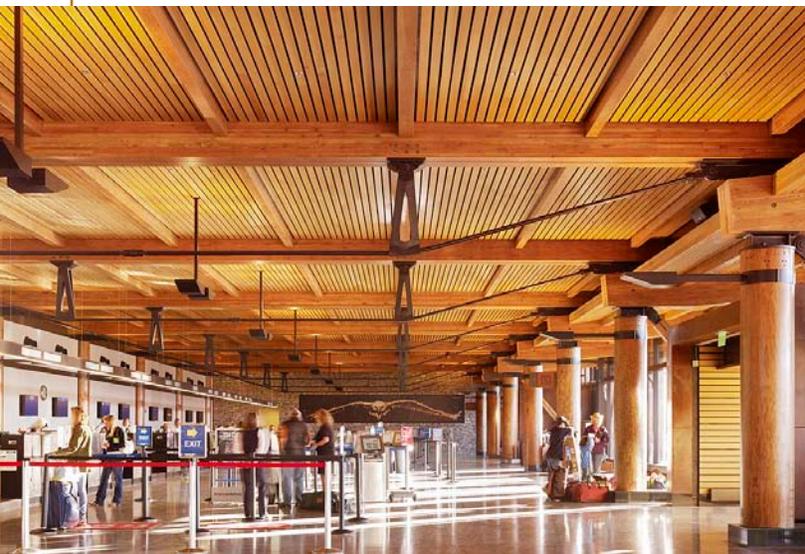
Cypress was specified because of its legendary durability, meeting the demands of Wyoming's climate.

In comparison to Douglas fir, cypress performs just as well or better, it machines easily and dries better, too.

The JAC project was Mather's first experience working with cypress, and the material made a positive impression. "It stacks up to other woods for value, price, and quality," he noted. "It looks great, and the owner and the design team are very pleased."



Today, cypress panels line the cantilevered ceiling on the exterior of the building, continue into the entry vestibule, and span the new 14,000-square-foot ticketing lobby.



Photos © Matthew Millman Photography

Today, cypress panels line the cantilevered ceiling on the exterior of the building, continue into the entry vestibules, and span the new 14,000-square-foot ticketing lobby. A low-VOC sealer protects the panels from the elements, preserves their natural honey tones and improves the terminal's indoor air quality. With the extensive use of cypress, the expanded 115,000-square-foot terminal, evokes a ski lodge vibe, well-suited for the multitude of tourists and adventure seekers who enjoy Jackson Hole's many activities, as well as the splendors of Yellowstone, only a few miles north.

With nearly 300,000 annual enplanements, the airport is by far Wyoming's busiest, while resting peacefully amid the towering Tetons and glacial lakes. Airport director and Wyoming native Ray Bishop calls the project a, "piece of art. The wood element provides the backdrop for the entire structure, and gives the visitor that unique Wyoming feel. The architecture fits the beauty of the Tetons and showcases the wonder of the most beautiful place on Earth."

Awarded a LEED Silver rating, JAC is now a model of environmental responsibility, and its innovative use of cypress reflects the character and unique beauty of Jackson, Wyo.

To learn more about the durability, versatility and beauty of cypress, please visit www.cypressinfo.org.



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