

Mountain Views, Desert Hues



Set into Arizona's Tortolita Mountains, the Dove Mountain Resort borrowed the Sonoran Desert's rich palette to create its stunning exteriors.



Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain Resort Marana, Arizona

With a spa, four restaurants, two ballrooms, more than 20 miles of hiking/biking trails and a Jack Nicklaus Signature Design golf course, the Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain Resort does more than provide guests with an oasis of comfort in the desert. It borrows the rich, warm hues and natural materials of its environment to blend into its surroundings.

The Dove Mountain resort is located about 30 minutes northwest of Tucson, in the scenic town of Marana. "We wanted this resort to have a very organic character, to tuck it right into the mountain," says Cecelia Conover of Studio Conover (SC), a cross-discipline design studio specializing in architectural consultation. SC collaborated with Dove Mountain's lead architectural firm, HKS, to select the exterior colors and finishes used throughout the property.

SC chose adobe block for much of the exterior. Working with Clay Mine Adobe, a local-source company, Conover tested different colors at the site to find the perfect match. "The adobe I was familiar with in California was asphalt-stabilized, so it tended to have a greener-brown color; Tucson's clay-mined adobe colors tend to be more in the soft, rosy browns," Conover says. Clay roof tiles and plaster walls complete the look; straw was added to the finish plaster to emulate true adobe plaster.

The custom-built gabion wall at the spa entrance is particularly striking. The contractor built the framing on site, using number 8 rebar, that allowed it to develop a rusted finish, which was filled it with rocks harvested from the hill behind the spa pool area.

"The overscale rocks really add to the drama of the material," Conover says. "We then played off that rusted metal look with the windows and doors. They are actually done with a dry powder coat mix; you wouldn't want real rust on the window frames, but we were able to get that character.

"It's a simple palette, but the relationships between the colors and tones, with the browns and rusts, is really organic and beautiful," Conover says about the high desert location that served as inspiration for the project. "It's not that often that people get to go right up into the mountains, but Dove Mountain gives you that experience."



Exterior Lighting

Solara Lighting fabricated the wrought iron gas lanterns on the hotel exterior (from a custom design by Wilson Assocs.) as well as the exterior lighting at the Pool Grill. Visit www.solaralighting.com or Circle (439)



Roof Tile

Redland Clay Tile supplied the two-piece Mission Sandcast Series roof tiles in adobe brown. The tiles are available in 16 colors and feature a mud-wash finish and thumb-butt edges. Because it is low-glare, clay roof tile

is particularly suited to a desert climate; natural variations in the clay slip impart a weathered, organic quality. Visit www.redlandclaytile.com or Circle (438)



Block Walls

Adobe block walls, in chocolate, were locally-sourced from **Clay Mine Adobe**. The company makes its adobe using only virgin materials, without the use of asphalt emulsion stabilizers that can compromise

quality and durability. Adobe can be custom-tinted. Visit www.claymineadobe.com or Circle (437)







Exterior Plaster



Dryvit finish coat plaster in a custom Sepiatone color was used at the resort, with straw added to the mix to emulate clay plaster. Dryvit finishes feature low maintenance advantages such as DPR (Dirt Pickup

Resistance) and PMR (Proven Mildew Resistance) for improved performance. Visit www.dryvit.com or Circle (436)



Windows and Doors

Dove Mountain's aluminum windows and doors were supplied by **Heritage Windows and Doors**. A textured dry powder coat in "rust" was used to create a weathered look. A leading supplier throughout Arizona,

Heritage has focused on designing products particularly suited to desert conditions. Visit www.heritagewindows.com or <a href="https://creativecom/creat



Gabion Wall

The project's lead architectural firm **HKS, Inc.**, contracted the striking gabion wall at the entrance to the spa. The wall is comprised of a rusted steel trellis built with No. 8 rebar that was then filled in with

large rocks gathered on site. "The overscale rocks really add to the drama of the material," says Cecelia Conover of Studio Conover, a specialty consultant on the project. Visit www.hksinc.com or Circle (434)



Outdoor Furnishing

Woven furniture around the poolside fire pits adds to the natural setting of the resort. Shown here is the Fusion line from **Brown Jordan**. The furniture is actually a mix of American, Asian and European

stylings. The contemporary design evokes an attitude of couture, while its broad profile generates international appeal. www.brownjordan.com or Circle (433)



Pool Furniture

Chase lounges, umbrellas and other poolside furniture and furnishings was supplied by **Spanish Royal Teak**. Visit www.spanishroyalteak.com or **Circle** (432)



Blinds and Shades

Interior wood blinds and woven shades were supplied by **Sunborn Shading Solutions**, which specializes in custom, fire-retardant window coverings designed exclusively for the hospitality and healthcare industries.

Visit www.sunbornshading.com or Circle (431)



Carpeting

Guestrooms are furnished with Merit modular carpet in a warm neutral color to complement the dark wood and desert tones used in the décor. From **Durkan**, part of the Mohawk Group. Visit www.durkan.com or **Circle** (430)



Drapery/Textiles

Interior Design Collection offers completely custom designs as well as a wide range of products for residential and hospitality design projects, including the Bergamo Fabric and Cortina Leather used

throughout the interiors of the Dove Mountain resort. Visit www.interiordesigncollection.com or Circle (338)