

# Rabbit Hole Bourbon Distillery | Louisville, KY

## 2018 Metal Construction News Grand Award Winner



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### PROJECT INFORMATION

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#### ARCHITECT:

pod architecture + design

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#### GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Prodigy Construction

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#### INSTALLER:

Dunn Construction

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#### WALL PANELS (24 Gauge)

**CFWP** – Weathered Copper, Mistique Plus  
**Soffit Panel** – Dark Bronze, Matte Black, Linen White

#### SOFFIT PANELS (24 Gauge)

**Soffit Panel** – Champagne Metallic

#### CEILING PANELS (24 Gauge)

**Soffit Panel** – Champagne Metallic

#### STAIRWELL PANELS (0.032" Alum)

**Custom Perf. Panel** – Champagne Metallic

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### INSPIRATION

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This is contemporary bourbon maker, founder and CEO of Rabbit Hole Distilling, Kaveh Zamanian's vision for life and for his Rabbit Hole Distillery manufacturing building in downtown Louisville, KY. This very modern, innovative 55,000 square-foot bourbon distillery, completed in May 2018, exemplifies this vision.

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### FORM FOLLOWS PROCESS

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The judges for the 2018 Metal Construction News Building and Roofing Awards were very impressed with both the distillery's form and process, with two of them even saying that if they saw it from a distance while out driving, they would want to drive toward it to learn and see more about it. "The Rabbit Hole Distillery project is a new contemporary building for a new bourbon manufacturing product in an otherwise traditional industry," says Douglas V. Pierson, AIA, LEED APBD+C, co-founder/partner, architect and design principal at pod architecture + design, Carrboro, N.C. "A design strategy of transparency was our way of showcasing in a modern way the complex process of bourbon making for all to see, and, while standing on the shoulders of giants, ridding any expectations of secret recipes and obscure traditions." Via an open floor plan, a tour lets visitors see each of these processes unfold step by step, and share in the context of the architectural expression of metal, glass and wood surfaces.

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"The facility repurposes an old warehouse for back-of-house operations (with large windows for all to see), and positions new construction all around it to house an entry and retail area, a cantilevered event space above the warehouse, a blackened wood louvered glass atrium for manufacturing, executive offices, and an interior skylit 'street' for visitors to view every process as it unfolds," Pierson says. "The blackened wood louvers honor the charred barreling process and the full-glass atrium allows for full transparency along with great views."

"We could only keep about 35 percent of the original warehouse," says Youn Choi, co-founder/partner and design principal at pod architecture + design. "But it became an unmistakable presence in the overall project narrative."



### DISTILLERY DETAILS & TOUCHES

2018 Metal Construction News Building and Roofing Awards judge Ryan D. Martin, AIA, NCARB, vice president-director of design hospitality architecture, LEO A DALY, Dallas, admires the distillery's different details and touches. He says he has never seen anyone pay this much attention to detail for a brewery. "The way it comes together celebrates the mechanics of the process," he says. "It's not trying to cram a bunch of things into a small space. The way the louvers finish and end on the building is gorgeous. I love the 'passing planes' and like to incorporate that into my projects; it's fun to see others do it. The logo looks like the perfect application. It looks very tailored and manicured; that's why it jumped out at me."

Awards judge James E. Theimer, AIA, LEED AP, principal, TRILOGY Architecture, Redding, Calif., says the distillery seems to be the building type of

the 21st Century. "This building type is starting to pop out especially in Europe," he says. "The United States may be picking up what is happening across the sea. Many metal buildings don't respond to their site, this one actually consciously responds to its context. Also, the designers thought this through not as one big space, but as a whole series of forms and spaces that go together."

