

## **AMBICO Doors and Frames - All That Glitters Is Not Gold**



Entrance to New England Insurance - Aquila Energy Corporation  
Bullet Resistant Gold Mirror Stainless Steel



Main Entrance to Linda Hall Library  
Brass Door & Frame

***"What does 'specialized' mean to us? It means doors and frames built to perform to our clients' specifications... it means our customers, whose special needs we strive to address ..."***

***-The AMBICO catalogue***

AMBICO recently completed two dazzling door and frame installations in Kansas City. Both projects involved the specialized design and installation of door and frame products which would integrate seamlessly into historically significant buildings. Both demonstrate AMBICO's ability to meet the rigorous demands of prestigious and discerning architects, dedicated to the preservation of two of their community's prized heritage sites. Both door installations exemplify the beauty of two very different metal finishes: one is bronze cladding and the other stainless steel -- both shining like gold in their architecturally magnificent settings -- they in fact combine beauty with functionality and performance.

### **The Linda Hall Library**

In 1956, the converted Georgian Mansion, former home of the Hall family of Kansas City, opened its doors as a very special library. Over the next 50 years, the Library underwent three major expansions. The architects of the original design, Edward W. Tanner & Associates, designed The Annex, which was completed in 1965. In 1978, Marshall and Brown Architects finished a four-floor extension and recently, in 2006, Peckham, Guyton, Albers & Viets, Inc. completed their contribution to the architecture of the Library, with a 3-storey addition to The Annex.

At the time of the latest addition, the architects involved commissioned the renovation of the main entrance to the Linda Hall Library complex. Sitting at the central point of the original building and crowning a circular front driveway, the replacement doors were to be similar to the originals but would now include exit devices incorporating concealed panic devices (in conformance with current building codes and standards), threshold floor closers, stile and rail construction and a framed transom feature. The polished frame would remain in place.

Construction Managers, J.E. Dunn Construction, turned to A2MG Inc distributors for the supply of the doors and re-facing of the polished frames. This is where the architectural and construction experts would turn to the door and frame experts: AMBICO Limited, manufacturer of decorative stainless steel doors and frames, as well as brass and bronze clad doors and frames.

AMBICO's design team set out to address a number of technical issues involving the doors and the frames:

- Stile and rail construction of doors including exit devices (concealed panic devices), and threshold floor closers;
- Matching the finish of the doors to the original and to the original frames;
- Retaining the original polished frames in place.

AMBICO provided the distributor with a sample of bronze cladding: "A280 Brass" was selected and approved for the finish for the doors. Because of the cladding, extra detail and design were required in preparing the doors for the exit devices and closers.

There is no doubt that the finished product exceeded all expectations and even the untrained eye will confirm that these new, state-of-the-art doors and the reconstituted frames, have insinuated themselves into the sleek lines of the original building.

### **The New England Insurance - Aquila Energy Corporation Building**

This beautiful building, an example of Classic architecture, is on the National Historical Register. The doors and frames are an excellent example not only of the incorporation of state-of-the-art door and frame construction, but also demonstrate the incorporation of high performance rating with architectural integrity, beauty and resilience: these shiny, reflecting, mirror finished doors are also Level II Bullet Resistant!

Because this building now houses an energy corporation, anti-terrorist construction features are required. The original doors were replaced with swing doors and as noted, Level II bullet resistance was specified. New frame sections would be constructed within the existing frame structure. The patina of all new doors and frames would integrate seamlessly with the original. Once again, the AMBICO design and engineering teams would meet the challenges presented by this project:

Stainless steel was determined to be ideal for this heavy traffic area which required bullet resistance and yet was to match the existing artistry of the front entrance to this heritage building. Both doors were to be active, swinging independently, and with panic devices. Electronic hardware was specified. #304 Gold Mirror finish stainless steel was chosen for the doors and was required to clad the existing framework.

Because of the mirror finish stainless steel being used in the fabrication of the doors, the frame cladding, and the caps, there was no room for error -- care was taken to ensure that all finished products were pristine and unmarked.

***AMBICO enjoys the challenges presented by architects restoring and renovating historically significant buildings and sites - retaining the historical integrity of these community icons while incorporating state-of-the-art and performance rated products. Completed installations such as those noted above exemplify AMBICO living up to its billing as a world class manufacturer of "specialized" door and frame products.***



Full View of the Main Entrance to the Linda Hall Library

Brass Door & Frame



The scope of the project and the ultimate success in matching finishes with the original structure are demonstrated by this view of the building

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