

Inside the surprisingly chic design of a Toronto mining headquarters.

Maggie Lange

The refined downtown headquarters of HudBay Minerals looks more like a Fortune 500 corporation, not the homebase on an integrated mining company. To reflect the business' tactile and elemental work, architect Michael Taylor, principal of Taylor Smyth Architects, drew inspiration from its extensive photo archive, translating mining's discovery, transformation, and finishing processes through the office's materials, colors, and sculptural details.

The building's elevators open onto the 26,000-square-foot space, outfitted in glass, metals, and various woods. Around the corner, raw concrete walls lead up to the reception desk. "The walls are composed of rough split face stone, inspired by a HudBay photo of vertical cliffs that have been hewn from the rock," Taylor says. Look up, and you'll notice a teak ceiling inlaid with large swaths of spun aluminum, which recall the netting used to protect mine ceilings. On the wall opposite is the piece de resistance: an undulating sculpture made from layers of walnut and copper. "The art piece evokes both the strata of the earth and the sinuous line of copper as it is poured into molds in the company's foundries," Taylor says, noting that the sculpture also abstractly recalls HudBay's relationship to the natural landscape. "I love the contrast of the raw and the refined," he says.



By the reception area, burnt orange upholstery evokes molten copper.

HudBay HQ opens with an elegant flourish. The art piece evokes both the strata of the earth and the sinuous line of copper as it is poured into molds in the company's foundries.

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ELEMENTAL STYLE

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