



PROJECT:

33 Gracechurch Street, London

DESIGNER: MoreySmith

MoreySmith used white gold leaf and lacquer surfaces to upgrade the tired foyer area of a 19th-century office building in Gracechurch Street in the City of London.

'It was a vast, extremely dated reception area and needed a little TLC,' says MoreySmith director Nicola Osborn, adding that the challenge was both to give the 'very bland' 150 sq m space a high-end look while creating more of a street presence for those passing by the building.

To give the reception more focus and dynamism, MoreySmith introduced a large fabric canopy into the double-height space above the reception seating area. The nylon weave-structured fabric was suspended on a 5m wide x 3m high powder-coated steel frame, with LED lighting along the base of the frame.

This was combined with new surfaces for both wall and floor. The 'oppressive' dark stone flooring was replaced with a limestone with plenty of fossil content and a patination that gives a much-needed texture to the expanse of floor. This is supplemented by a rug directly below the canopy.

On the wall behind the leather-clad reception desk are fitted bespoke gold leaf panels (handmade by specialist finish company Ochre) to provide a softer ambience. These continue on to the right-hand wall where they are interspersed with beige lacquer panels (by Hick Joinery) that continue towards the window. These reflective finishes bring light into the space, along with a 6m-high etched bronze mirror wall.

On the opposite wall, 957 resin and acrylic painted tulip wood cubes have been installed in a pattern by artist Stuart Hartley (pictured at top).