



CASE STUDY

# Humboldt Pool Pavilion & Folly

Location: Denver, Colorado | Built in 1907, Pool Pavilion 2018



  
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Within a row of historic mansions in the Humboldt Street Historic District of Denver, Colorado, a grand 1907 Italian Renaissance Revival estate sits. Designed by the notable architects Willis Marean and Albert Norton, the estate is known as the Stoiber-Reed-Humphreys mansion and nicknamed “Stoiberhof.”

Marean and Norton Architects are well known in Denver historical society circles having designed some the city’s most important traditional buildings: the Cheesman-Boettcher House, now the Colorado Governor’s mansion; the Greek Theater in Civic Center Park, and the nearby Cheesman Park Pavilion.

The Stoiber-Reed Humphreys estate included a main residence, a carriage house, and a swimming pool. The clients hired Steve Ekman of Ekman Design Studio to redesign the outdoor entertainment spaces including a new lap pool, renovation of the existing pool, landscaping, and a new pool pavilion.

The historic district is in the National Register of historic places; any renovation or expansion plans were required to meet exacting historic preservation guidelines. The new pool pavilion had to be compatible with the original buildings on the estate and its historic district neighborhood.

Ekman Design Studio is an experienced preservation architecture firm in historic Denver as are their collaborators on this project, Newmyer Contracting Inc. and Raleigh Roofing and Restoration. Together they conceived a new pool pavilion as a temple form, derived from the details of the main house, with a Ludowici clay tile hipped-roof, rusticated brick columns, cornice and modillions, cast- stone column capitals, and balustrades.

The design program for the pool pavilion incorporated a covered dining and entertainment space, an outdoor kitchen, an open shower room, a bathroom, and dressing room.

The 676-square-foot pavilion’s defining feature is a Ludowici, custom-colored French interlocking clay tile roof with bell cap terminals. The colors perfectly match the historic landmark roofing on the main house. The Ludowici roof is nicely complemented by a custom crimped-copper cornice with blocked modillions, installed by Raleigh Roofing and Restoration.

“I was very impressed by Ludowici’s ability to match existing historic colors on the new pavilion roof,” explains Steve Ekman. “They are responsive with sample tiles, and a knowledgeable, patient partner throughout the design and installation process. This roof will last at least a hundred years. “

### ORIGINAL ARCHITECT(S):

Willis Marean and Albert Norton

### ARCHITECT:

Ekman Design Studio  
[www.ekmandesign.com](http://www.ekmandesign.com)

### ROOFING CONTRACTOR(S):

Raleigh Roofing and Restoration  
[www.raleighroofing.com](http://www.raleighroofing.com)

### PRODUCT(S):

French Interlocking Tile

### COLOR(S):

Custom Matte Color 130-11

*The Humboldt Pool Pavilion & Folly renovation has been awarded Traditional Building magazine’s prestigious 2024 Palladio Award for excellence in traditional design.*





*Photos courtesy of Traditional Building Magazine and Ekman Design Studio*



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- Stephen P. Ekman, AIA, *Principal Architect, Ekman Design Studio*



  
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