

THE SUDLER

1576 Sherman St, Denver, CO 80203



Architect: James Sudler
Year Built: 1959

The Architect

James Sudler was a prominent architect in the city of Denver and is responsible for creating several iconic buildings in Denver’s downtown. Sudler took inspiration from several significant architects to create unique works that are identifiable by distinctive facades. Some examples include the Church of the Risen Christ (known as “Ski Jump”) at 3060 South Monaco Parkway, the United States Courthouse and Rodgers Federal Building, and the North Building of the Denver Art Museum (Paglia). Sudler worked closely with Italian architect Gio Ponti to design the North Building of the Denver Art Museum, and the influence of Gio Ponti is evident in many of Sudler’s later works. Sudler referred to the exterior of the museum, designed by Ponti, as “a fortress for art” (Xie). While Ponti took charge of designing the exterior, Sudler designed the interior and gallery spaces (Fulton).



The Sudler

The building we now know as “The Sudler” was previously known as “The Daly Insurance Building.” “The Daly Insurance Building was one of James Sudler’s earliest commissions” (Paglia). While some of the exterior has been modified in the days since its original commission in 1959, it remains a reminder of Sudler’s architectural style. One of the most notable features of the original construction

was a concrete sunscreen. In addition to the aesthetic appeal the sunscreen provided, it also served to add shade to the building. Sudler chose to use a screen built from aluminum rods to hold the concrete discs that made up the sunscreen, and, in doing so, created an illusion that made the sunscreen “appear[] to float over the recessed ground floor” (Chandler). While the sunscreen was an iconic feature of the building, it was removed in the early 2000s. The current facade of what is now known as The Sudler features a reinstallation of exterior rings as a nod to the architectural “sunshade” that wrapped the original building. Once completed, The Sudler will serve as an office building that features a gym and other amenities for tenants.

References

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