



THE US GRANT  
A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL

*San Diego*

July 12, 2010

THE US GRANT, a Luxury Collection Hotel has worked with Esteban Lopez and James Niebling of Esteban Interiors on numerous interior design projects in the hotel since early 2009. The most significant is the re-design and re-introduction of the Grant Grill Lounge as a more stylish, exciting and inviting space for hotel guests and local patrons to enjoy.

Although THE US GRANT and the Grant Grill underwent a multi-million dollar renovation in late 2006, the Lounge was a space that patrons found to be somewhat uninviting and intimidating, and one that lacked energy and excitement.

The hotel team was charged with re-imagining and re-designing the space, its food and beverage offerings and the musical entertainment component. The latter two areas of focus were handled by the operations team of the hotel, but the first area – design, is where Esteban Interiors became involved.

Esteban Lopez and James Niebling were brought in to work with the hotel team on revitalizing a space that had gone through renovation only two years earlier and were asked to work within the present framework and not necessarily start the design from scratch. They listened to the operations management team, taking input and guidance on what changes we wanted to create an overall lounge experience that sets the Grant Grill Lounge experience above any other destination in downtown San Diego. They were asked to provide input and recommendations for layout, design, furniture, lighting and wall coverings. In doing so, they were also asked to keep in mind the budget we had to work with.

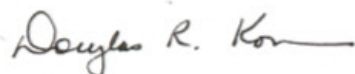
Esteban and James set out to work. They started with a floor plan layout for better flow through the space. They then presented several suggestions and options for wall coverings, lighting, bar tables and barstools as well as dining tables and chairs. Based on input from the hotel team, choices were narrowed down. In several instances Esteban and James incorporated their own custom designed pieces into the plan, including the metal bar tables with Caesar stone quartz slab tops, and the walnut dining tables with custom carved balustrades, paired with original design banquette seating. Tying all elements together with the Bisazza tiled wall panels, the crystal chandeliers with Mylar shades and Josephine wall sconces the room came alive.

Esteban and James were the perfect team to assist the hotel staff in re-designing the Grant Grill Lounge. They were true partners in the process. They were creative and presented ideas that would complement the existing Grant Grill restaurant and adjacent hotel lobby. They worked well within our budget, providing a detailed analysis of the items and associated costs. In addition, they provided weekly status updates for each phase of the project, letting us know if there were any delays or challenges with any of the items selected. Their presence for the installation and willingness to schedule around the business levels of the restaurant and lounge made it possible for the hotel to keep the Grant Grill open throughout the entire re-design process.

Since re-introducing the newly revitalized lounge last August, the Grant Grill Lounge has not only seen business increase dramatically, but has also received numerous accolades and recognitions from local media, meeting planners, as well as hotel and local patrons alike. The Grant Grill Lounge is now a comfortable and exciting, energy filled space for our guests to enjoy as part of their experience at THE US GRANT and here in San Diego. We extend our sincere thanks to Esteban and James of Esteban Interiors for their outstanding work, partnering with the team at THE US GRANT to complete this project and accomplish our goals.

THE US GRANT continues to use Esteban Interiors for other projects throughout the hotel. They are great partners and can be counted on for honest, quality work that gets completed in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,



Douglas R. Korn  
General Manger