



CASE STUDY

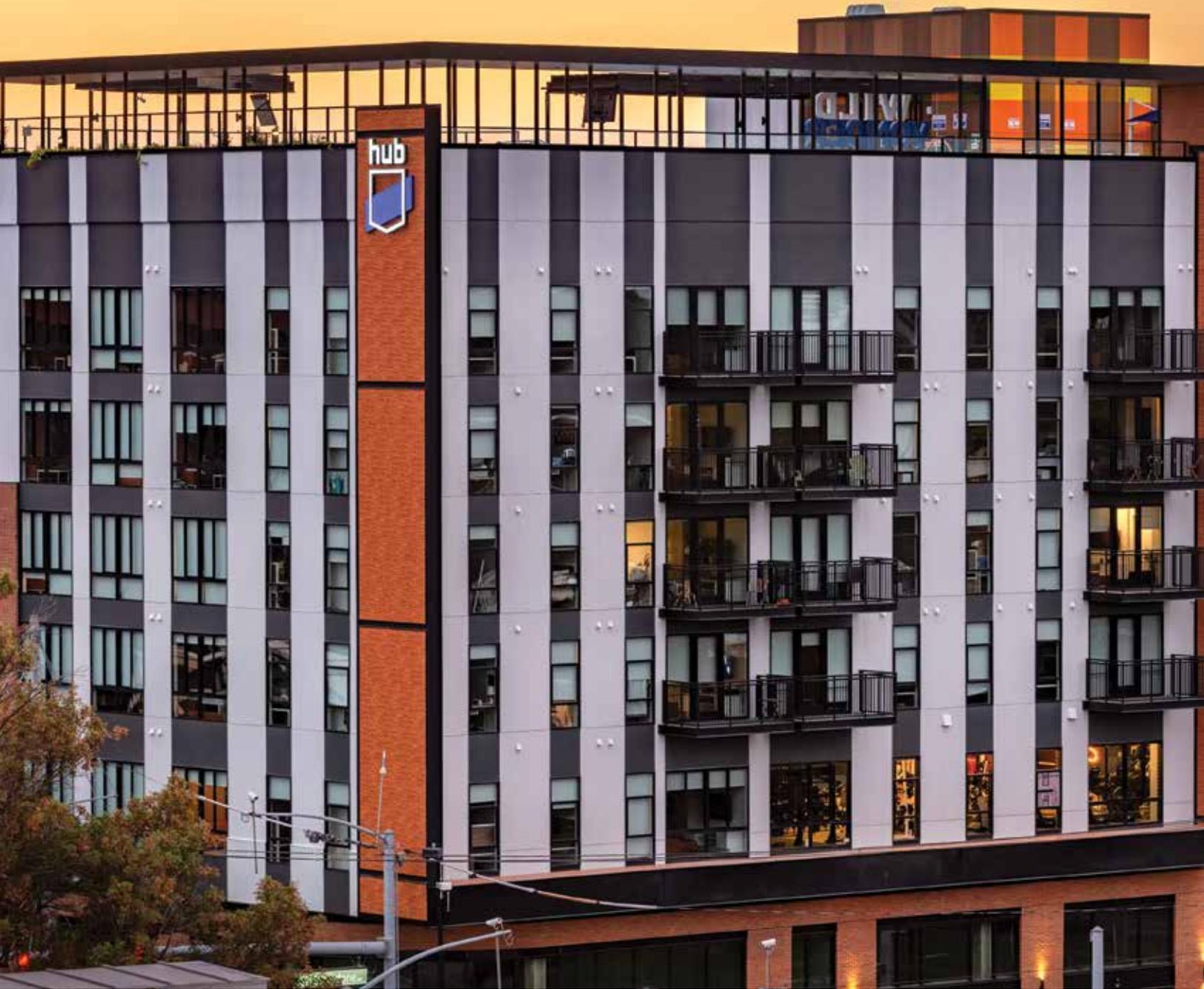
HUB LEXINGTON  
LIMESTONE

SHOW-STOPPING INTERIOR  
DETAILS TAKE THE REIGNS

Wood looks and a custom plaid design in student apartment building showcase the equestrian heritage of Lexington, Kentucky



*With a rooftop pool deck, a fire pit area overlooking Lexington, and more, Hub Lexington Limestone plays a crucial role in the student experience.*



In the center of beautiful hillsides dotted with horses, lies Lexington, Kentucky. The historic city, widely regarded as the horse capital of the world, is also known for picturesque scenery, bourbon aficionados, devoted college basketball fans and the nationally ranked University of Kentucky.

With a total enrollment of almost 30,000 students, the University relies on residence life and housing as key elements of its student experience, both on- and off-campus. And lifestyle, amenities,



*The lobby soffit honors Lexington's equestrian heritage with a playfully sophisticated design wink of wood looks and red and black plaid.*

and atmosphere are decisive factors when students are selecting where they want to live, study, and entertain friends.

Therefore, when Core Spaces – an integrated company focused on developing and managing real estate for colleges and universities – began exploring ideas for a new project in Lexington, the company focused on creating a warm, welcoming off-campus apartment building that also offered “a bit of wow factor,” says Brent Pfloderer, development manager, Core Spaces.

### **SPEC CHANGE YIELDS DESIGN SOLUTION**

When walking into the new, six-story student apartment building, which opened in August 2020, residents and visitors of Hub Lexington Limestone are indeed greeted with the special pops of design that the developers were hoping to achieve. The lobby honors Lexington's equestrian heritage with a playfully sophisticated wink.

A carousel horse featured at the Lobby's center draws

visitors in, while several seating groups encourage gathering and conversation. Soft, worn-in leathers, wood textures, and deep, rich colors add a feeling of warmth and comfort to the Lobby's large space.

The welcome counter feels approachable with its bar seating, and the lower soffit ceiling in the space is thoughtfully done in wood looks to reflect the university's pastoral surroundings, with hints of red and black plaid reminiscent of a horse blanket – all of which combines to create a cozy, inviting

area. Though the center’s aesthetic offers the distinctly natural feel of wood texture, the vertical wall surface and soffit are in fact comprised of an innovative metal ceiling and wall product designed specifically to serve as an alternative to wood: CertainTeed Architectural Continuous Linear Grille using Deep Box 2 in a wood-look finish. The wood look provides a warm focal point for the room, and the red and black accents throughout offer a contemporary spin on the classic plaid design — a unifying design theme that’s carried throughout the building.

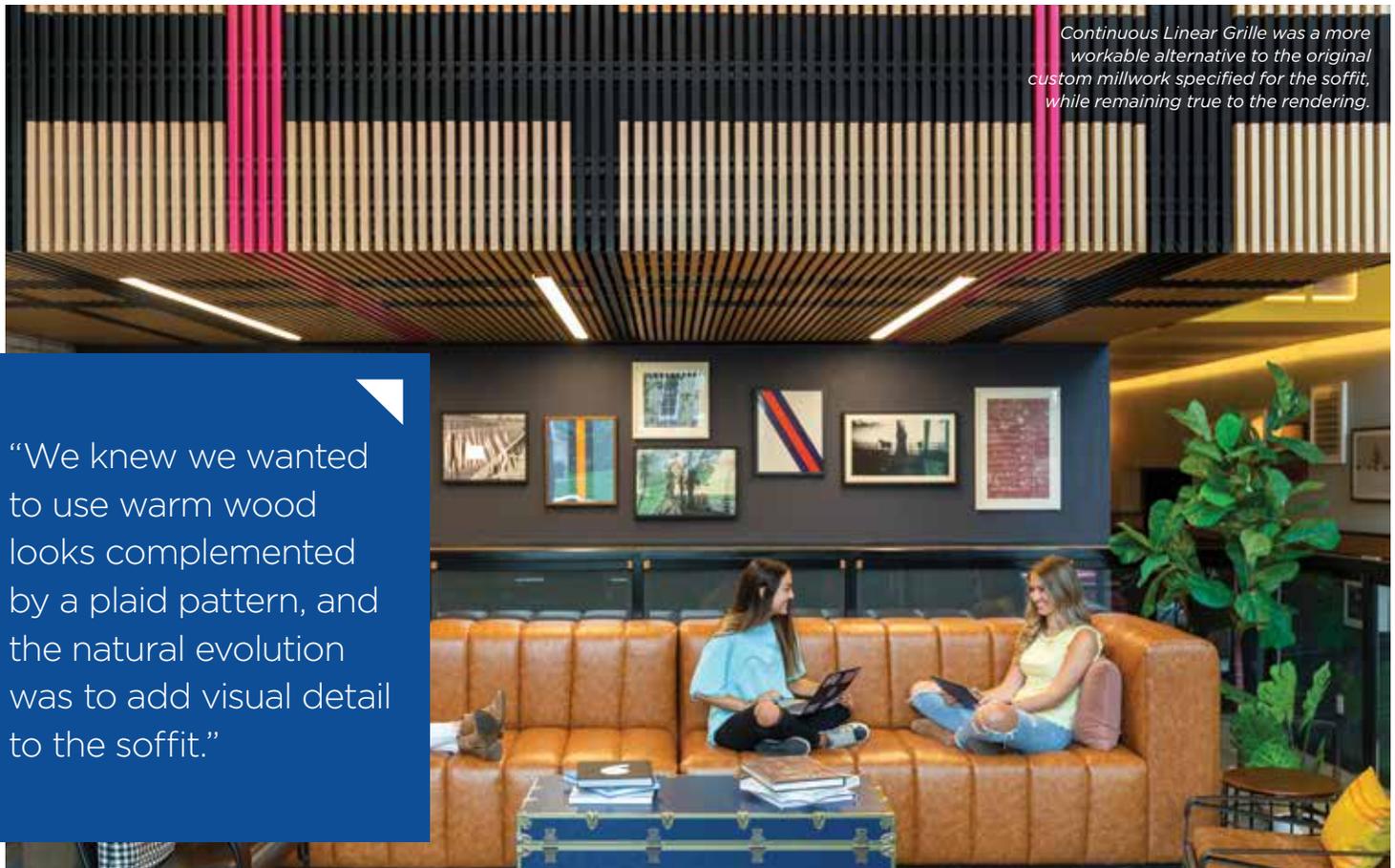
The project’s interior designer was excited to think vertically in

the Lobby’s higher space, while embracing the idea of creating a more intimate, conversational atmosphere. “We knew we wanted to use warm wood looks complemented by a plaid pattern, and the natural evolution was to add visual detail to the soffit,” says Kayce Carter, senior designer, Studio K Creative. However, achieving the 3-Dimensional effect depicted in the Lobby’s renderings was a bit more challenging.

Custom millwork was originally specified for the wall and soffit detail, but mounting wood presented significant installation challenges because of its weight. Aside from the physical challenges of mounting wood, there were

also time and budget constraints to consider: The entire building project needed to be complete in 19 months – and the lobby interior details were some of the last aspects to complete. That meant they needed to be finished in a matter of weeks.

The decision was quickly made to change the spec to CertainTeed Architectural Continuous Linear Grille, a versatile aluminum ceiling and wall solution that offers convincingly real wood finishes in a variety of veneer or powder coated species and stains — from rich maple and oak to natural cherry and walnut. The lightweight material is also available in a limitless array of solid standard



*Continuous Linear Grille was a more workable alternative to the original custom millwork specified for the soffit, while remaining true to the rendering.*

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*The wood-look ceiling with pops of red and black plaid is carried through the Executive Business area.*

and custom powder-coated colors. For Hub Lexington Limestone, the design team opted for Continuous Linear Grille in 8491 White Oak finish, plus custom 6586 Heartfelt red and 3510 Blacktop colors to match the building's specific design palette.

The precise shop drawings provided a color-coded diagram for how to install the plaid color pattern and everything had to be cut to the precise. In fact, each panel had to be field cut

within 1/32" to accurately reflect the design intent. Fortunately, Continuous Linear Grille is a formidably workable product in the field; cutting went smoothly, saving valuable installation time and critical project budget dollars.

Lobby renderings involved intricate design detail. "However," says Brett Pierce, manager, Wells & Wells Construction Co., the project's contractor, "installation of the Continuous Linear Grille vertical wall system and soffit detail

was simple and straightforward. Everything went smoothly, and we were finished in about two weeks."

Even with the project's swift installation speed and the field cutting, the end result precisely replicates the design intent of the Lobby's rendering.

#### **COMPLETING THE THEME**

Astute eyes will also find the wood and plaid Continuous Linear Grille design adding depth to the ceiling

of the second floor Executive Business area. “In this space, the ceiling system’s integrated lighting is featured more prominently,” says Jeff Zelisko, senior principal, Antunovich Associates, the building’s architect. The ceiling system provides a bold, layered design element for the room while being compatible with lighting fixtures necessary for a study space.

The Executive Business area is a quiet work space that offers access to Macs, PCs, and printers and gives residents a spot to relax and concentrate. An attached interior courtyard complements the biophilic element of the wood look in the space.

The study area is just one of several amenities the building

offers student residents. Other notable features include a rooftop pool deck with a fire pit area overlooking Lexington and a state-of-the-art fitness center with a sauna and steam room. Enjoying the outdoors, encouraging social gathering, and promoting health and well-being are top priorities of Hub Lexington Limestone’s owners and the building’s designers.

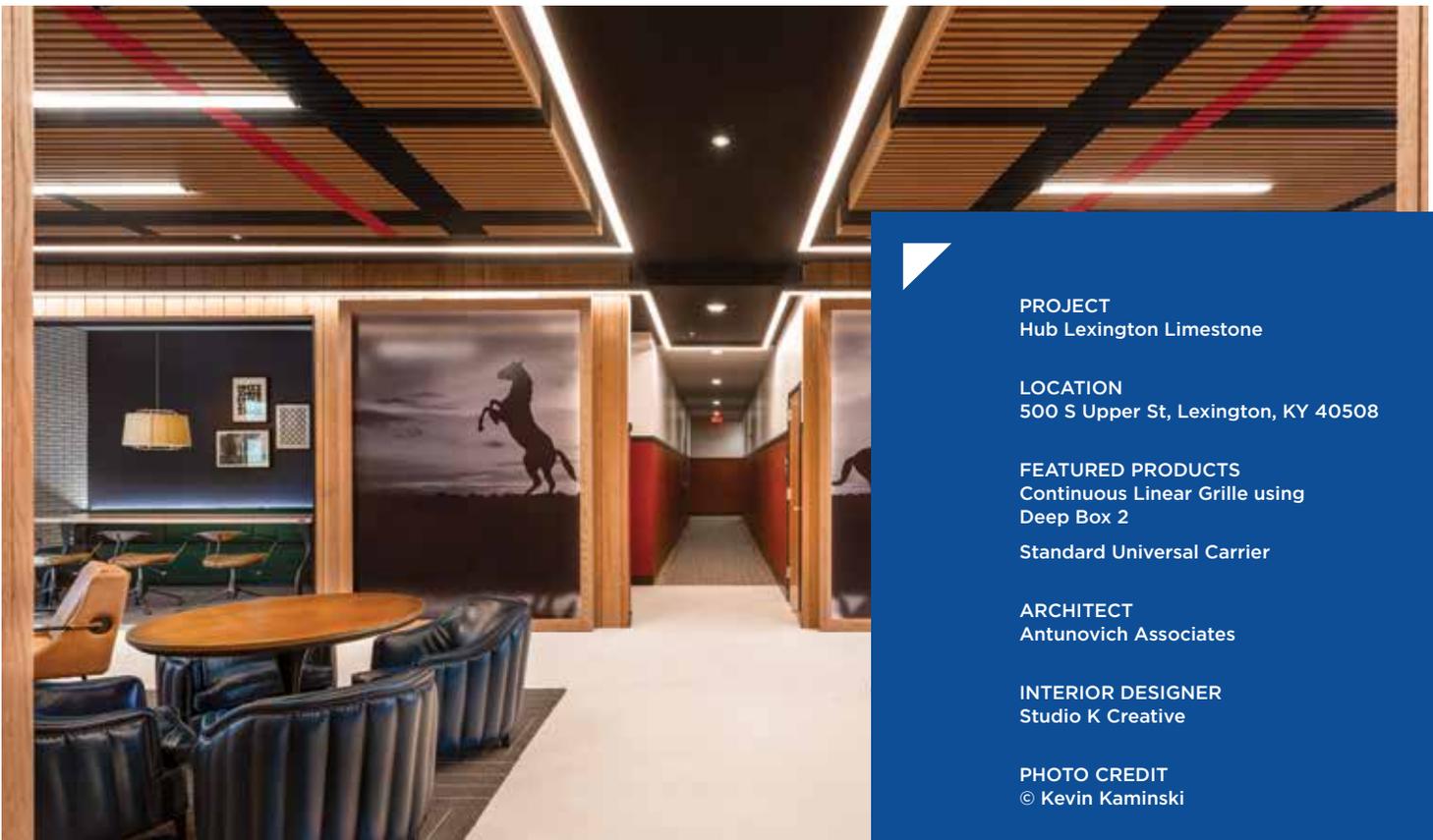
The equestrian design not only ties into Lexington’s heritage, it also encourages an active, outdoor lifestyle. And the warmth of the wood look, plus the eye-catching plaid theme, are carried throughout the building.

While it is first seen in the Hub Lexington Limestone Lobby’s unique soffit feature, the red and

black plaid is also picked up in mosaic tile in common bathroom areas, walk-off mats in the elevator lobbies, a plaid mural painted on the exterior of the penthouse’s elevator lobby at the rooftop pool, and of course, the second-floor study space metal ceiling.

“Every project has its own unique story to tell,” says Carter. “We strive to create a lifestyle for residents that makes them feel special and unique.” The Lobby is the impactful first chapter of Hub Lexington Limestone’s unique story. And the plaid soffit welcome area gives a cozy preface to the building’s warm, sophisticated charm.

**Find more inspiration at**  
[CertainTeed.com/Architectural](https://www.certainteed.com/architectural)



**PROJECT**  
Hub Lexington Limestone

**LOCATION**  
500 S Upper St, Lexington, KY 40508

**FEATURED PRODUCTS**  
Continuous Linear Grille using  
Deep Box 2  
Standard Universal Carrier

**ARCHITECT**  
Antunovich Associates

**INTERIOR DESIGNER**  
Studio K Creative

**PHOTO CREDIT**  
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