Voting ID: #6501 | Architectural Metalwork – Boundaries (Gates, Railings, Doors, Fences, Screens etc.)

Screens

Bolands Mill, Dublin





Project Story:

The Bolands Mills project exemplifies how heritage, contemporary art, and advanced manufacturing merge in urban settings. Graepels partnered with Begley Hutton Brand Consultants and artist Sean Atmos to transform this historic industrial site into a compelling landmark using precision-perforated steel panels.

Located along Dublin's River Liffey, Bolands Mills represents over 130 years of flour milling heritage. Though its industrial functions ceased, its cultural imprint endures. The challenge: create a public structure celebrating this legacy while embracing urban vibrancy.

Begley Hutton shaped the historical narrative, while Sean Atmos wove together text and modern graphic motifs. Known for dynamic visual language, Atmos balanced reverence with modernity, fusing historic references with bold contemporary art.

Graepels brought this vision to life using our Alpha-Perf perforating process. Historic text from century-old "Irish Builder" publications was precisely milled into 15 custom steel panels. Each letter and motif was individually punched, transforming façades into evocative scripts narrating the mill's story.

Project Team:

OMC and Graepels

The installation explores light, shadow, and materiality. Stainless steel was chosen for durability in Dublin's waterside climate, with powder coating ensuring lasting vibrancy. The perforations cast dynamic shadows, filter natural light, and create visual interaction between observer and structure.

Production demanded meticulous digital design—every panel required exact hole placement for clarity across viewing angles. Each perforation was examined for precision, ensuring consistent edge definition and structural integrity.

The perforated panels offer a unique interplay of past and present: historic inscriptions that shift with sunlight against dynamic motifs echoing Ireland's cultural resurgence. OMC coordinated installation frames, ensuring seamless integration into the built environment.

The result transcends screening—it's public art. These panels serve as cultural fixtures, inviting passersby to stop, read, and connect. By harnessing Alpha-Perf technology to fuse storytelling with visual art, Graepels has elevated perforation into a medium for cultural preservation, demonstrating how precision fabrication and creative collaboration can reanimate historic sites and enrich urban identity.

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The Nominee thinks this deserves to win an award because:

The Bolands Mills project transforms steel into a storytelling medium. Using Graepels' Alpha-Perf technology, bespoke panels display readable text and imagery from 19th-century issues of The Irish Builder, honouring the site's industrial heritage.

Located at a landmark Dublin site, the perforated panels blend history, design, and innovation—offering light-permeable, legible, and sculptural elements. Stainless steel and eco-friendly finishes ensure durability in a coastal environment.

Graepels collaborated with artists, branding consultants, and OMC to deliver a high-performance, narrative-driven installation. This project demonstrates steel's power in place-making and cultural renewal —a standout example of expressive, sustainable architecture and a worthy Irish Steel Awards contender.

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