



Case Study

Transforming Complexity:

How Handwerk Art and Design
Organized a Multi-Zone Hospitality
Project with DesignSpec

Project Overview

Sir Henry's is a hospitality venue in New York City designed around a deceptively simple brief: create a dive bar, but elevated. Gregor Bugo, founding partner of Handwerk Art and Design, led the design with an ambition to build a space that felt simultaneously familiar and immersive, somewhere guests arrive as strangers and leave as friends.

The concept drew on three interlocking themes: classic Americana, indulgent dive-bar comfort, and a distinctly New York "style-no-style" sensibility, the layered aesthetic of a city where decades of fashion, music, and culture stack on top of one another. The result is a space with multiple distinct zones, each with its own character, yet cohesive throughout.



Client Profile

Designer:

Gregor Bugel, Founding Partner, Handwerk Art and Design

Project:

Sir Henry's: Bar & Hospitality Venue, New York City

Project Type:

Commercial interior design (hospitality / bar)

Key Challenge:

Managing a layered, multi-zone space with mixed vintage and custom FF&E across a large team

Product Features:

Spec Organization & Room Tagging, Customizable Reports, Client Portal, Team Collaboration

The Challenge

Sir Henry's was an ambitious project by any standard, and the design complexity created real operational demands on the team.

A Layered, Multi-Zone Space

The venue was conceived as a series of smaller spaces within a larger one, each offering a slightly different feel while remaining cohesive as a whole. That meant managing a large volume of FF&E across multiple settings.

Mixed FF&E: Vintage, Custom, and Commercial-Grade

The material palette blended genuine vintage pieces with new items designed to look old, alongside custom fabrications. Every piece had to meet hospitality durability standards, arrive on time, and sit visually alongside pieces from entirely different eras.



A Growing Practice Outgrowing Spreadsheets

Handwerk Art and Design evolved from an art feature and fabrication studio into a full-service interior design practice. As projects grew in scale and complexity, static spreadsheets became a liability, too rigid, too slow to update, and impossible to collaborate effectively.

Team Coordination Across the Field and the Office

With team members working both on-site and at their desks, real-time access to the latest spec information wasn't a nice-to-have, it was essential. Any lag between a decision and its documentation created risk.

Why DesignSpec



Handwerk Art and Design integrated DesignSpec from the the moment of initial concept to the finished design.

Dynamic Specs That Evolve

As soon as the collaging and sketching phase wrapped, the team moved directly i into DesignSpec to begin organizing materials and furniture. Specs were created early, vendors were confirmed, and the design became more resolved. The system moved with the project rather than lagging behind it.

Tailored Reports for Every Audience

One of the team's most valued features was the ability to generate different reports for different stakeholders. DesignSpec allowed Handwerk to produce a clean, high-level overview for the client and a granular spec book for the builder.

Client Portal for Fast Approvals

Rather than waiting on a single file or email chain, the team used DesignSpec's client portal to send materials and information to ownership quickly and directly. Approvals moved faster, and nothing was held up behind a documentation bottleneck.

“A very **powerful tool** for a team working across a complex, fast-moving project.”

Gregor Bugel, Founding Partner

<p>Organization & Coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All FF&E tracked in one single, dynamic, system • Material changes updated in real time and visible to every team member • Hundreds of commercial-grade pieces managed • 23 vendors managed through DesignSpec • 4 custom pieces specified and tracked
<p>Client & Contractor Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailored spec reports generated from the same data, no duplication of effort • Client portal enabled fast, direct sharing of specs • Contractors received detailed, complete spec books without delays or manual reformatting
<p>Team Efficiency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live, cloud-accessible specs eliminated version control issues across a distributed team • Decisions documented immediately, keeping the spec in sync with the evolving design • A tool purpose-built for the trade replaced the limitations of spreadsheets and workarounds





“We need something that was very dynamic and easy to use, not just a static spreadsheet. **We use DesignSpec every day.** It factors into our everyday workflow.” - Gregor Bugel, Founding Partner

Outcome

Sir Henry's opened to become exactly what the team set out to build: a space with history baked in, where the layered aesthetics of the design mirror the layered people who walk through the door. The venue has the lived-in warmth of a place that feels like it's always been there.

For Gregor and the Handwerk team, the project demonstrated what's possible when design ambition is matched with the right operational tools. DesignSpec didn't just support the process, it enabled the team to stay organized, move quickly, and deliver without compromise.

See how DesignSpec can transform your next interior design project, head to designspec.com to start your free trial.