

# SBID International Design Awards 2017: Potamus Trading

The SBID International Design Awards has firmly established itself as one of the most prestigious and enjoyable events in the design industry calendar.

The awards recognise, reward and celebrate design excellence across a broad range of categories. Winning a SBID International Design Award is a high achievement – they are evaluated by leading industry experts for their technical content and aesthetic creativity while the design-conscious public also has a say in choosing the most inspiring projects.

**Category:**

Office Design Winner

**Design Practice:**

Elkus Manfredi Architects

**Project Title:**

Potamus Trading

**Project Location:**

Boston, MA

**Design Practice Location:**

Boston, MA

**Project Description:**

The design of the new, 15,000-square-foot Potamus headquarters supports the firm's intensive, collaborative culture and serves as a recruitment tool, all while embodying the mix of sophistication, energy, and spirit unique to Potamus. At reception, a life-sized fiberglass hippo – the Potamus symbol representing strategic edge – greets visitors. The hippo's sub-Saharan habitat inspired the materials, textures, and colours, which converge with safari-style furnishings to make a relaxed but professional environment. At the heart of the office, the trading floor – lined with oversized windows offering views to Boston Harbor – provides varied seating options near trading stations, from private conference rooms and offices to comfortable living-room-like seating areas, to support different individual work styles. The sunlit residential-style kitchen is in constant use for meals, impromptu parties, and client entertaining. A wall-size video screen, reception desk that doubles as a DJ booth, and acoustically separate gaming room help employees unwind.

*Vanderweil worked as the MEP engineers and technology designers for Potamus Trading.*

