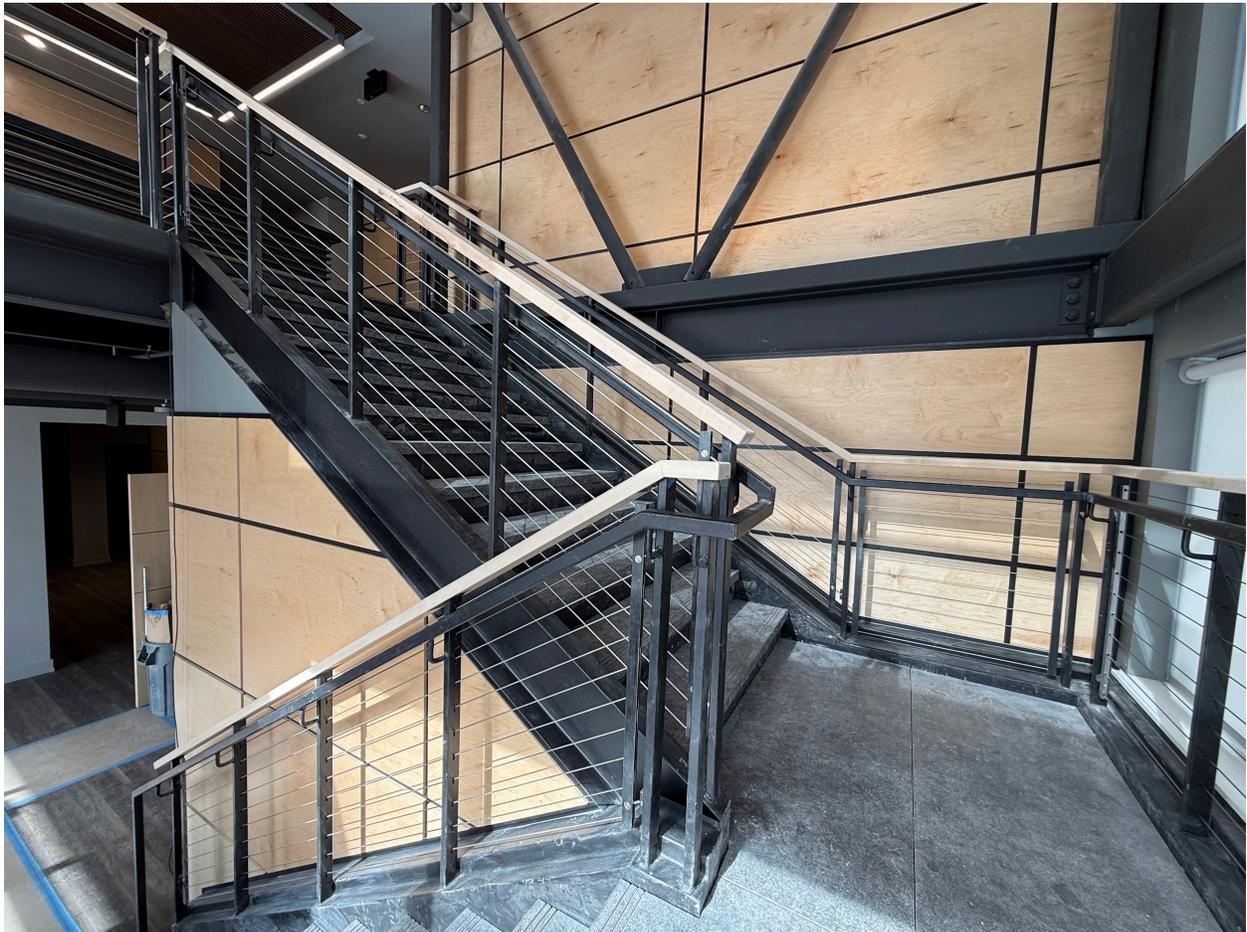


# Railing Loom

## Case Study — First Commercial Installation

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Railing Loom's first commercial installation in the lobby of Dick Anderson Construction's new office building near Bozeman, Montana. The exposed structure and cable infill were designed as integral architectural elements.

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## Project Overview

Railing Loom's first commercial installation was specified by Locati Architects for the lobby of Dick Anderson Construction's (DAC) new office building near Bozeman, Montana. The project was conceived as a showpiece—intended to demonstrate DAC's construction capabilities and the materials used throughout the building.

In keeping with that intent, the building's structural steel was left exposed rather than concealed behind finishes. The railing system was expected to contribute to that architectural language rather than soften or disguise it.

Railing Loom was selected in part because it aligned naturally with these goals. The system's exposed cable routing, visible tensioning, and raw steel finish (sealed with a clear coat rather than powder coated) reinforced the project's emphasis on structural honesty, transparency, and material expression.

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## Design Intent & Architectural Fit

From the outset, the lobby railing was understood as more than a guardrail—it was a visual and structural element within a highly intentional space. Conventional cable railing systems often rely on numerous discrete fittings and heavily perforated end posts, introducing visual noise that can compete with exposed steel architecture.

Railing Loom offers a different approach. By consolidating cable routing and tensioning into a single woven system, visible hardware is reduced while all mechanical elements remain accessible and legible. Nothing is hidden. The system is straightforward, functional, and structurally expressive.

End posts remain clean and stately, providing structure without being visually burdened by rows of penetrations and fittings. The cables become the primary visual element, while the hardware recedes into function.



Exposed cable routing and raw steel finish reinforce the system's emphasis on structural clarity and material honesty.

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## Installation Experience

As with any first commercial deployment, the installation provided valuable lessons—particularly around layout and placement.

One key takeaway was the importance of aligning Railing Loom components to the actual cable path, especially where intermediate posts with pre-drilled routing holes are present. In this project, Looms were initially centered within the openings between floor and handrail rather than precisely centered on the established cable routing. That mismatch required relocating several Looms and repairing additional holes.

Stair sections presented a separate challenge. Predicting anchor locations to maintain cable runs parallel to the handrail on angled sections remains an area under active development. CAD modeling is currently underway to formalize placement rules for stair applications.

Once Loom placement was corrected, installation of the cable infill itself proved exceptionally straightforward—particularly on horizontal runs. The use of more flexible 7×19 cable significantly improved handling, making pull-through smooth and alignment predictable.

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## Comparison to Conventional Cable Railing

Installers familiar with traditional cable railing systems will recognize the typical process:

- Cutting multiple cables to identical lengths
- Installing hardware on both ends of every cable
- Mounting and tensioning each cable individually
- Iteratively re-tuning as post deflection introduces sag elsewhere
- Returning later to re-tension as cables stretch over time

Railing Loom fundamentally changes this workflow. Instead of tuning dozens of independent elements, the system relies on centralized adjustment points that tension the woven cable assembly as a whole. The most labor-intensive and failure-prone aspect of conventional cable railing installation—fine tuning—is largely eliminated.

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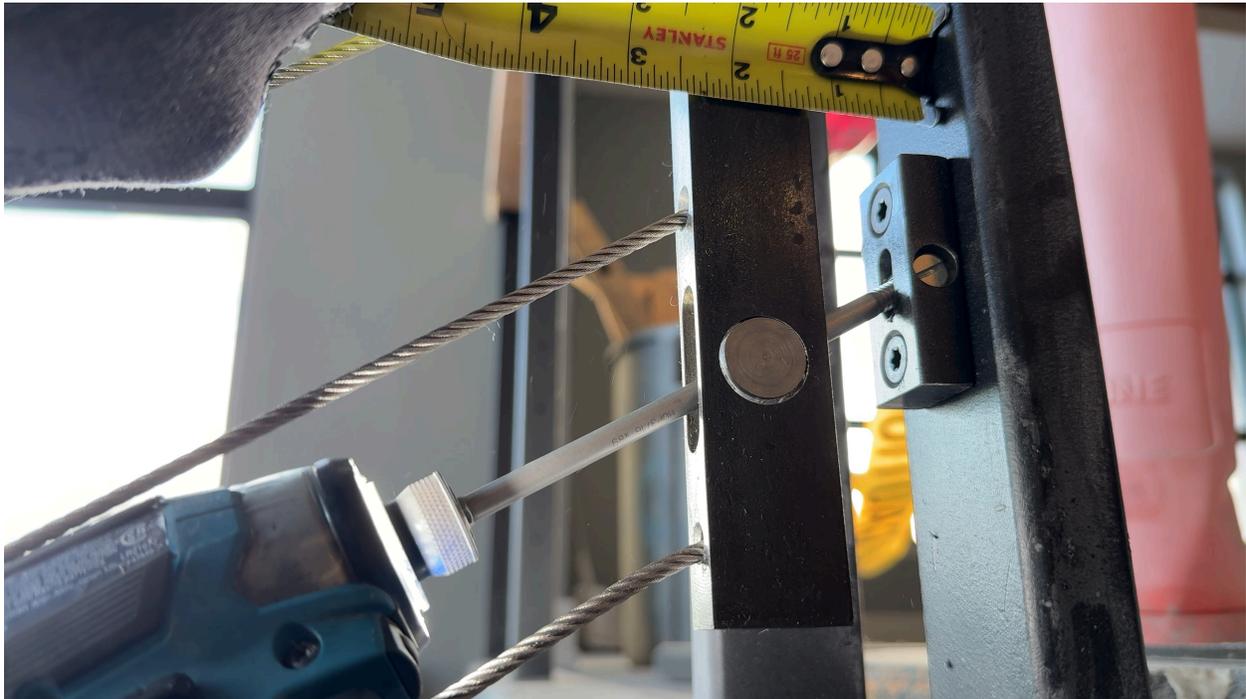
## Performance & On-Site Validation

A defining moment of the installation occurred during final walkthrough. A panel that had not yet been fully tensioned was identified just as tools were being packed up. Using a single impact driver, all four tensioning points were adjusted in minutes, bringing the system up to near maximum practical tension.

The correction was immediate and unambiguous. The cable responded with the audible and tactile confirmation installers expect when a system is properly tensioned—without disassembly, cable-by-cable adjustment, or collateral re-tuning.

Earlier demonstrations during installation, including load testing, had already established confidence in the system's strength and anchoring. This final adjustment reinforced the practical advantage of centralized tensioning under real-world conditions.

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Centralized tensioning allows multiple cable runs to be adjusted simultaneously using a single tool, eliminating iterative cable-by-cable tuning.

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## Who Railing Loom Is For

Railing Loom is well suited for fabricators and installers who already design and build custom posts and handrails and who understand the challenges of conventional cable infill systems. Precision in layout still matters, but once placement rules are followed, installation becomes refreshingly simple and repeatable.

Installers with experience in traditional cable railing will immediately recognize where time, frustration, and long-term maintenance have been removed from the process.

The system is less appropriate for environments where layout accuracy is treated casually or where installation instructions are routinely ignored. Railing Loom rewards thoughtful preparation and delivers cleaner aesthetics, faster installs, and greater confidence at handoff.

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## Closing

This first commercial installation confirmed that Railing Loom offers a fundamentally different approach to cable railing infill—one that reduces tuning, simplifies installation, and clarifies architectural intent. As placement rules continue to be refined and documented, the system is well positioned to support both commercial and high-end residential applications where performance and visual restraint matter.