A SoMa corner where there’s more than meets the eye

By John King
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Change hits cities in all sorts of ways, from blunt skyline changes to brash coats of paint. This stylized upgrade of a nondescript post-1906 corner building appeared in late May, commissioned by the bar inside that features such cocktails as Birds of Babylon. Exuberant yet dense, it’s a head-turning contrast both to the tawdrier aspects of this stretch of Mission Street and such transition signals as the 11-story box opening next door that will house several hundred college students. Now we have a baroque-by-way-of-Wild West storefront. And when trends shift, don’t be surprised if a new look follows.

This three-story building at Mission and Washburn streets now houses the bar Oddjob, which hired the Los Angeles artist Shrine to give it a distinctive new look in May. Nearby are at least five new large residential buildings either under construction or recently completed.
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Oddjob
1337 Mission St. Artist: Shrine |Style: Trompe l’oeil
Size: 3 stories | Date built: 1913

Cityscape is a weekly look at a distinct slice of San Francisco; words and photos courtesy of jking@sfchronicle.com.