



MAOPING SCULPTURE · SHENZHEN CHINA

Material and Finish Guide

Stainless steel grades bronze and fiberglass
and the surface finishes available with each

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Materials

304 stainless steel

304 is the common choice for sculpture. It resists corrosion well in normal outdoor and indoor conditions, polishes to a clean mirror surface and holds that finish with simple cleaning.

316 stainless steel

316 is specified where the environment is more aggressive, for example coastal sites or locations with heavy industrial exposure. It costs more and is used where the site justifies it.

Bronze

Bronze is cast rather than fabricated. Pieces are hand finished after casting to build the patina that gives bronze its depth and character outdoors.

Fiberglass and resin

Fiberglass is lighter than steel and suits indoor display, temporary installation and forms where weight matters more than permanent exterior durability. Fiberglass pieces are coated and painted.

How to choose

Tell us where the piece is going and how long it needs to last. Grade selection follows the site rather than the other way round, and the grade used on your project is confirmed in writing before production.

Surface Finishes

Mirror polish

Multi stage polishing produces the reflective surface that makes stainless steel sculpture read as light rather than as metal. This is the most common finish on outdoor work.

Brushed and satin

A directional brushed surface reduces reflection and shows fingerprints less. Often used on interior pieces and on bases.

Titanium and gold plating

Plated finishes give a warm metallic colour over a steel substrate. Gold, rose and champagne tones are all produced.

Painted and coated

Automotive style paint systems are used where a solid colour is required. Colour is checked against reference samples before the finish is signed off.

Hollow and perforated work

Cut and openwork surfaces change how a piece behaves in daylight and under night lighting, and reduce weight and wind load on large forms.

Care in service

Rinsing and wiping with a soft cloth keeps a polished surface clean. Abrasive pads and chloride based cleaners should not be used.