



News

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Multi-million dollar makeover planned for historic Raphael Hotel

An extensive renovation and restoration of the nationally acclaimed Raphael Hotel is moving forward according to Delana Meyer, The Raphael general manager and director of sales and marketing for Lighthouse Properties, owner and operator of the historic boutique hotel. "Schematic drawings and interior design plans are substantially approved," says Meyer. "The model showroom is complete and construction on the new guest reception lobby is progressing on schedule for completion by Thanksgiving." The project's scope includes completely remodeled and furnished guest rooms, with all new bathroom features and fixtures; new plumbing, heating, ventilation and cooling; refurbished corridors; the addition of new fitness center and 24-hour business center; a restoration of the lobby; and enhancements to the patio and landscape. The project will progress in phases says Meyer. "The initial phase of remodeling the guest bathrooms is well underway. The entire project will take more than a year to complete."

Gettys, an award-winning hospitality design firm with an international reputation, was awarded the design contract. Gettys has designed renovations for more than 500 distinguished properties worldwide. The firm's diverse portfolio includes luxury boutique hotels, five-star resorts and prestigious city hotels such as Hôtel Plaza Athénée in New York, The Quail Lodge in Carmel Valley and The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago. "Gettys body of work is world class, but what most impressed us was the way the organization embraced our vision for the property," says Meyer. "Preserving the hotel's historic character while enhancing our guests' comfort and overall experience was our goal. Gettys got that."

Voted one of the 2006 world's best places to stay by readers of *Travel + Leisure*, The Raphael is a boutique hotel patterned after Europe's small, elegant hotels. It combines the charm and intimacy of a locally significant landmark with highly individualized service. The Raphael was originally built adjacent to Kansas City's famed Country Club Plaza shopping district in 1927 as an apartment building. It opened as a hotel in September, 1975 after a complete restoration. The nine-story property is a member of National Trust Historic Hotels of America, Boutique Resorts & Hotels International and Condé Nast Johansens, the international luxury hotel guide publisher. The Raphael is owned and operated by Lighthouse Properties, the hotel and hospitality management company of Blue Beacon International, a privately held company based in Salina, Kansas.

