



News

For immediate release: December 19, 2007

First phase of historic Raphael Hotel's multi-million dollar makeover complete, next phase set to begin

The nationally acclaimed Raphael Hotel restoration is well under way. Schematic drawings and interior design plans are substantially approved. The new guest reception lobby, patio and entrance vestibule along with the prototype showroom and guest corridor are complete. The guest room construction phase begins in January and is scheduled to be complete in 2008.

Management expects the year-long restoration will create a dramatic, new experience for The Raphael guest, one that satisfies both nostalgic yearnings and modern day urgencies. "Gettys, our interior design firm, demonstrated great sensitivity and appreciation for both The Raphael heritage and for the needs of the modern luxury traveler," says Delana Meyer, The Raphael general manager and corporate director of sales and marketing for Lighthouse Properties, owner and operator of the historic boutique hotel. "The look is timeless, yet fresh and sophisticated. It's Old World charm meets New Age hip." When finished, the restoration will include completely remodeled guest rooms, appointed with all new furniture, decor, bathroom features and fixtures; new plumbing, heating, ventilation and cooling; refurbished corridors; the addition of a new fitness center and 24-hour business center; the lobby restoration; and enhancements to the patio and landscape.

Lobby Restoration Details: The hotel's entrance is designed to more closely connect The Raphael guest's experience to the Country Club Plaza. The entrance vestibule features new black granite entry flooring, metallic gold leaf ceiling, chandelier preserved from original lobby, pale yellow faux silk striae wall covering, wood framed mirrors above doors and two vintage photos of The Raphael from its original incarnation as the Villa Serena Apartments. The completely remodeled reception area features two check-in stations; seating areas on either side of the vestibule, including stone-topped sofa table, chocolate crushed velvet sofa with accent pillows and comfy chairs; and gracefully arched draperies in botanical pattern with color splashes of reds, greens and browns on cream. Original lobby features, including the travertine marble flooring and ornate ceiling millwork, were preserved and restored. Artwork includes two signature works, 6'X4' abstract floral acrylic and oil on canvas paintings by Beverly Gegen, a noted Kansas City artist commissioned by Gettys for the project, and a collection of 30 reproduction maps and small scale architectural details that visually connect people to history and classic architecture.

###

