

# Hotel Business

## HB ON THE SCENE: Ritz-Carlton, Philadelphia Reveals Transformation

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PHILADELPHIA—The Ritz-Carlton, Philadelphia has reopened following a yearlong, \$25-million renovation. The hotel was originally built as a reproduction of the Pantheon when it opened in 1908 as The Girard Trust Company.

Local officials and hotel representatives celebrated the grand opening today on the steps of the property. “The Ritz-Carlton, Philadelphia is one of the city’s most iconic structures,” said Darryll Adams, general

manager, during the press conference. “It’s been incredible to watch the changes over the past year.”



Ritz-Carlton, Philadelphia

New York-based architect and interior designer Wimberly Interiors oversaw the updates to the hotel's 299 guestrooms, meeting spaces, lobby experience and public spaces, along with the construction of a new restaurant, bar and lounge by Chef Richard Sandoval.

The property-wide enhancements pay homage to the property's history. The new design aims to tell a story through neutral colors, textures and materials inspired by money and currency, with pops of metallic, bronze and emerald green.

New guestroom design features fabrics and furniture finishes in a neutral color palette. Punctuations of green and blue, along with notes of bronze and nickel, layer a contemporary polish. The new guestrooms offer a distinct space for work and relaxation with a cohesive unit encompassing the desk and TV console.

The 26,000 sq. ft. of meeting spaces have been updated to reflect a transition of neutral colors through each function room. A nod to the past can be found in furniture details that mimic historic motifs from the building, yet boast an updated clean aesthetic. The second and third levels of the hotel are pre-function rooms, including 13 meeting rooms that can accommodate groups of 20 to 400 people.

The original bank vault now serves as a function room. The hotel features two ballrooms—a 3,075-sq.-ft. ballroom and the 6,100-sq.-ft. grand ballroom, located on the concourse level. The centerpiece of the hotel, this expansive space holds up to 600 people.

The lobby area is comprised of high ceilings, 9,000 tons of Georgia marble and the original architecture of the 101-ft. dome, once the largest dome in the Western Hemisphere, according to Marriott International. Upon entering the building, a large lounge area with two enormous crystal walls fill the space with sparkle and light.

“The original oculus was used to host the bank tellers,” said Bradley Pacana, director of sales and marketing. “They would pull the money through the center of the oculus from the vault directly below. It is still intact and covered by a glass wall.”

Located in the property's marble lobby is Aqimero. Managed by restaurateur Richard Sandoval's, the new restaurant features a wood-burning grill, which serves as its centerpiece, and a menu that focuses on sustainable seafood, steaks, ribs and poultry.

—Matthew Marin