



Fairmont Breakers Hotel

Long Beach, CA



Breakers Hotel Retains Original Glamour after Restoration

Originally built in 1926 in a captivating blend of Spanish Renaissance Revival and Art Deco, the historic Fairmont Breakers Long Beach Hotel in downtown Long Beach, California, has been meticulously restored to its former glory and is now open nearly 100 years later with all the upgrades and amenities that make it a AAA Four Diamond boutique hotel.

With guidance from the Long Beach Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC), the project team preserved or reconstructed noteworthy elements of the hotel's exterior, including intricate plasterwork and the cast stone façade.

PROJECT DETAILS

Systems Provided

Series

1450S Hung Replica

Market

Hotel

Features

Historic Replica

Project Team

Owner

Pacific6

Architect

GMA-Design Group

General Contractor

ARCO National Construction

Representative

Max Bell

Photography

Construct Creative





Winco authentically replicated the original profiles of all windows, supplying energy-efficient 1450S Hung Replica aluminum windows in multiple sizes and configurations. Most of these windows are trimmed in a bone white finish to blend in with the stone; however, a few standouts are trimmed in a black finish. Winco also manufactured 26 strategically placed radius windows.

The \$150-million restoration nearly gutted the interior to allow for energy-efficient mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. The previous 330 guest rooms were reconfigured into 185 spacious guest rooms and 25 suites. Much of the lobby and main floor were preserved and revitalized, as was the world-renown Sky Room restaurant on the 13th floor. Onsite amenities include two top-tier restaurants, six bars, a rooftop pool and lounge, and multiple meeting rooms just north of the Long Beach Convention Center.



Now that all the work is done, the Breakers is once again a center of activity, with guest rooms providing a comforting atmosphere and plenty of famous views from new Winco windows.

A Fascinating History

The Breakers is one of the oldest, most memorable buildings in Long Beach. Built in 1926, Architects Walker & Eisen created a unique look, blending Spanish and Art Deco styles. The original one-story west wing was constructed below Ocean Avenue, allowing convenient access to the beach. The next 12 stories were built above the beach overlooking the breaking waves and inspiring the hotel's name.

The Great Depression and the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake forced the Breakers into bankruptcy. Fortunately, it was well-constructed, even by today's standards, withstanding the earthquake and serving as a Red Cross station.

In 1938, hotel magnate Conrad Hilton purchased the Breakers as the eighth hotel in his famous chain. Hilton made the Sky Room a popular spot, drawing such Hollywood legends as Clark Gable, Rita Hayworth, Cary Grant, Elizabeth Taylor, Babe Ruth, and John Wayne.

Even St. Louis' own Charles Lindbergh has a special story relating to the Breakers. Lost in a fog over the coast, Lindbergh used the illuminated letter B on top of the hotel to help him find his way to Long Beach's airport.

Its coastal location and the addition of a cupola-mounted pillbox enabled the Breakers to be used as a lookout during World War II.

In 1989, the Breakers was designated an historic landmark.

In 1991, the Breakers served as an assisted living facility before closing in 2010. Throughout its history, the Breakers has seen many owners and many transformations.

After its purchase by Pacificó in November 2017, this 100-year-old landmark is once again serving as a beacon to Long Beach residents and traveling guests, offering premier accommodations, fine dining and entertainment, shopping, and spa amenities.

