



Seaboard Weatherproofing and Restoration completes renovation

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Seaboard Weatherproofing and Restoration Co. recently finished its two-year exterior renovation of the Plaza Hotel, located at Fifth Ave. and Central Park South. The Plaza's co-owners, Elad Properties and Kingdom Holdings, commissioned the exterior work from Seaboard as part of a lobby-to-roof renovation of the 101 year old landmark.

Working in conjunction with the Plaza's façade restoration architect, David Abramson of Newark, N.J., and construction manager Tishman Construction Corp., Seaboard had the task of maintaining the integrity of the original architecture while restoring the building to its original condition. Since the hotel was designated a N.Y.C. landmark in 1969-one of the only hotels in the city to ever receive this distinction-The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission oversaw the entire process. The exterior restoration consisted of many different efforts. New whiteglazed-brick, provided by Belden Brick in Canton Ohio, was installed to match the historic white-glazed brick on the street façade, mainly at air conditioning vent locations. Loading bays at the hotel's southeast corner were rebuilt with limestone to match the original design. Also, the entire façade was washed with a chemical restoration cleaner to brighten its appearance.

The Plaza has four marquees, one on each side of the building. Seaboard rebuilt the southeast marquee, which was damaged by a truck many years ago, and restored the other marquees with new castiron pieces, adorned with ornamental birds and faces, using supplies from Allen Architectural metals of Talladega, Ala. The base of The Plaza is constructed with limestone, and Old World Stone in Burlington, Ont. supplied Seaboard with the new limestone needed to replace the old.

The Plaza required replacement of its terra cotta stone exterior on the 16th, 17th, and 18th floors. "The terra cotta stone around the window sills, dormers, and lintels was very dirty," said Michael Ahearn, president of Seaboard. "We used cast stone to replace the old terra cotta and now it looks brand new."

According to Ahearn, the rigging of the building for restoration was most challenging. "We had a steep, sloping Mansard roof with dormers...it's the kind of roof that's a tricky thing to rig with cables that need to fall straight down," Ahearn said. "So, we had to erect 17 exterior masts from the ground up and then hang from a platform to move the scaffolding around...It was a very challenging job in that respect."

The hotel's 282 guest rooms, which include 152 luxury suites, had been closed during its interior and exterior restoration and re-opened on March 1.

"It's great to see...taking something that is such a historic part of New York City and making it new again is an amazing thing to be a part of...the final product is very rewarding to all of us," Ahearn said. History The Plaza Hotel first opened its doors on October 1, 1907 and was designed by Henry

Janeway Hardenbergh. Originally, The Plaza served primarily as a residence for wealthy New Yorkers. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt were the first to sign the register. Since then, The Plaza has been a home to many heads of state; stars of stage, screen, and sports; and some very distinguished literary figures. The most notable being F. Scott Fitzgerald, who was known for his exploits at The Plaza during Prohibition. His friend Ernest Hemingway once advised the author to "Give his liver to Princeton and his heart to The Plaza." In the early 20th Century, legendary opera star Enrico "The Great" Caruso "attacked" his suite's electric clock with a knife, throwing nearly every other clock in the hotel into disarray. In 1959, director Alfred Hitchcock and actor Cary Grant assembled at The Plaza to film the classic "North by Northwest." This marked the first time a crew, director, and cast assembled on site to make a picture. Before then, movies were rarely shot on location. The Plaza has been the centerpiece of plays such as Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite." The 1971 movie of the same title was filmed on location at The Plaza as well. About Seaboard Weatherproofing and Restoration Company: Based in Port Chester, NY, Seaboard Weatherproofing and Restoration Company is one of the leading restoration and alteration construction firms in the New York City metropolitan area. The company has received several prestigious awards and numerous accolades for its work on high-profile projects, including The Elephant House at the Bronx Zoo, The Cloisters museum, and The Woolworth Building. For more information, please call (800) 347- 7464 or visit www.seaboardwpr.com. Seaboard Weatherproofing and Restoration Company 530 Willett Avenue Port Chester, New York 10573 Press Contact: Michael Dardano/Beth Weiss Co-Communications (914) 666.0066 beth@cocommunications.com

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