

# PALOMAR

PHILADELPHIA  
A KIMPTON HOTEL

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HISTORIC ARCHITECTS BUILDING SITE FOR KIMPTON'S HOTEL PALOMAR PHILADELPHIA

**PHILADELPHIA, September 1, 2009** – Hotel Palomar Philadelphia, located at 17<sup>th</sup> and Sansom streets in the heart of Center City Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, is an adaptive reuse of Philadelphia's historic Architects Building. Built in 1929, the 24-story building is Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants' 11<sup>th</sup> adaptive reuse project, first hotel in Philadelphia and first LEED-registered hotel. A striking example of Art Deco architecture, the building was thoughtfully renovated to incorporate its historic elements into the design.

The Architects Building was designed by French-American architect Paul Philippe Cret, along with a group of 20 other architects and firms, including John F. Harbeson, Robert Rodes McGoodwin, and firm Zantzinger-Borie & Medary. Beginning in 1930, the building was home to the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Many aspects of the building were preserved in creating Hotel Palomar Philadelphia, such as the elegant penthouse ballroom with original crown molding (most recently used as office space), the exquisite AIA Library on the 24<sup>th</sup> floor, the ornate etched elevators doors, and original chandeliers. The renovations of the hotel, such as the entryway and various rooms and suites, also incorporate Art Deco-style elements, such as geometric details and tiling. The construction scope included the cleaning and repair of external masonry to Department of

Interiors Standards for Historic Buildings as well as the installation of all new mechanical systems.

The hotel's meeting rooms are named for distinguished architects who have contributed to the outstanding architecture of Philadelphia. On the 24<sup>th</sup> floor, there are three flexible meeting rooms (that can be divided into five rooms total) that are named for famous architects Julian Abele, Paul Philippe Cret and Frank Lloyd Wright. The Abele room is a tribute to Julian Abele, who, in 1902, was the first black graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Architecture, and who contributed to two of Philadelphia's most significant buildings – the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Free Library of Philadelphia. The Wright room recognizes Frank Lloyd Wright, whose last completed project, Beth Shalom Synagogue in nearby Elkins Park, Pa., was designated a National Historic Landmark. Architect Paul Philippe Cret was a University of Pennsylvania professor and is celebrated for his designs for Philadelphia landmarks such as the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Rodin Museum, Rittenhouse Square, and of course, the Architects Building.

The second-floor Pei Boardroom is named for I.M. Pei, who contributed to Philadelphia's architecture with the Society Hill Towers, a trio of 31-foot residential buildings located in Philadelphia's Society Hill neighborhood. The hotel's penthouse ballroom is named for Daniel Burnham, the architect for the Land Trust Building in Philadelphia.

“This hotel has served to revitalize a remarkable, well-known building,” said Peggy Trott, general manager of Hotel Palomar Philadelphia. “Naming the function rooms in honor of architects who have contributed to the outstanding architecture of this city is a way for us to pay homage to the building and its significant role in Philadelphia's architectural history.”

Also in the Architects Building will be Square 1682, Kimpton's chef-driven restaurant and bar, located adjacent to Hotel Palomar Philadelphia. It is a two-story space featuring new American cuisine and is located in the former AIA bookstore.

Based in San Francisco, Kimpton is the leading boutique hotel company in the United States, famous for its reputation for consistently delivering highly personalized attention, care and comfort of its guests.

The Hotel Palomar Philadelphia is located in the heart of Center City, at 117 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street, in Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square neighborhood. For more information or reservations, please visit [www.hotelpalomar-philadelphia.com](http://www.hotelpalomar-philadelphia.com), or call 877.725.1778 or 1-800-KIMPTON.

#### **ABOUT HOTEL PALOMAR PHILADELPHIA**

Hotel Palomar Philadelphia, one of Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants' nearly 50 boutique hotels in the United States, is a highly stylized, eco-friendly, upscale boutique hotel located in the heart of Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square neighborhood. It is the first Kimpton hotel to open in Philadelphia and Kimpton's first LEED-registered hotel. With its thoughtful adaptive reuse renovation of one of Philadelphia's architectural landmarks, the Architects Building, and its 230 stylish and sustainable guestrooms, 6,000 square feet of meeting space and living room-style lobby, Hotel Palomar Philadelphia exemplifies artful and eco-conscious design. Hotel Palomar Philadelphia is located at 117 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street, one block from picturesque Rittenhouse Square, and within walking of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. For more information, please visit [www.hotelpalomar.com](http://www.hotelpalomar.com) or call 877.725.1778.

#### **ABOUT KIMPTON**

San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, a collection of boutique hotels and chef-driven restaurants in the US, is an acknowledged industry pioneer and was the first to bring the boutique hotel concept to America. Founded in 1981 by Bill Kimpton, the company is well-known for making travelers feel welcomed and comfortable while away from home through intuitive and unscripted customer care, stylish ambience and having a certain playfulness in its approach to programs and amenities. Each hotel provides a range of exciting culinary experiences through locally-loved, top-rated, destination, chef-driven restaurants. Kimpton leads the hospitality industry in ecological practices through its innovative EarthCare program that spans all hotels and restaurants. Privately held Kimpton has consistently earned high customer satisfaction scores by the Market Metrix Hospitality Index, exceeding other hotel companies including those in luxury and upscale segments. Among the company's newest properties are the Hotel Monaco Baltimore and restaurant B&O American Brasserie by Chef E. Michael Reidt in Baltimore, MD, which opened in July 2009. Currently, projects are underway in New York City, Philadelphia and Chicago. For more information, please visit [www.KimptonHotels.com](http://www.KimptonHotels.com) or call 1-800-KIMPTON.

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