

CHICAGO LANDMARKS



2016 PRESERVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

68 East Wacker Place Chicago Motor Club Building Adaptive Reuse

Recipient: Murphy Development Group

The Chicago Motor Club building was designed by Holabird & Root and built in 1928. The building served as the headquarters for the Chicago Motor Club for nearly 60 years. Designed in an Art-Deco architectural style, the building features elaborate detailing with stylized flowers, plants, flowing fountains of water, zigzags, swirls, and sunbursts. The building had been vacant since 2004 and was in building court due to significant deterioration until the recipient purchased the property and converted this important commercial building into a new 143-room Hampton Inn hotel. The extensive rehabilitation included masonry repairs of all facades, masonry cleaning of the front limestone façade, the dismantlement, repair and reconstruction of the decorative cast-iron ornament, and repair of historic windows. The dramatic tripple-height main lobby has been restored to its original splendor with new paint to match the historic color scheme, repair of water damaged plaster detailing, the uncovering and repair of the original patterned terrazzo flooring, and reinstallation of original light fixtures. The *United States Map* mural painted by John Warner Norton that depicts nineteen transcontinental auto routes in the 1920s was also carefully restored. A new metal-and-glass entrance canopy was also installed. Other work included the installation of a vegetative 'green' roof, new architectural accent lighting, new elevators and exit stair work, a new sprinkler system, and new mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems throughout. The developer received a Class L Property Tax Incentive and the 20% Federal Historic Tax Credit. The Chicago Motor Club Building was designated a Chicago Landmark on May 9, 2012.



historic



before



after photos courtesy of MB Real Estate



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