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San Francisco: \$1.8 million makeover for Fairmont's penthouse



The \$20-million penthouse at the Fairmont San Francisco has long held a firm place in the travel annals of the rich and famous. Since its construction in 1926, the crowning suite has hosted all manner of executives and elites, luminaries and dignitaries, who have luxuriated in its opulent quarters.

Indeed, the three-bedroom suite that takes over the entire eighth floor of the legendarily ritzy hotel is far from modest: The living room holds a grand piano; the dining room seats up to 60 people; the library is of the two-story, circular fashion, complete with a secret passageway; the billiard room is covered floor-to-ceiling in Persian tile; and the terrace (pictured above) beholds a dreamy City by the Bay from its Nob Hill perch.

But historic things, however perfectly lavish, need some dusting off every now and again. And at present, this grand dame is getting nip-tucked and upgraded to the tune of about \$1.8 million.

The penthouse restoration, which began Aug. 2 and is scheduled for completion in mid-September, is being led by Alexandra Champalimaud.

The well-known designer's efforts will "create a luxurious marriage of East meets West in The Penthouse, utilizing the Moorish influence of the billiard room and terrace as its inspiration and adding dramatic design elements such as a hand-painted silver and black Chinoiserie wallcovering to the palatial dining room," according to a Fairmont press release.

Guests will have ample time to enjoy the new look of the 6,000-square-foot abode, as the quarters come with a cadre of staff — a chef, masseuse, personal trainer and butler among them— ready to meet your every need. And, upgraded feel or not, when you get tired of sitting between walls, your Ferrari California awaits downstairs.

How much for a taste of such old-meets-new glamor and elegance, one night's worth of royal living? \$15,000.

— Susan Derby, Special to the Los Angeles Times

Photo: The penthouse terrace at the Fairmont San Francisco features a dreamy view of the city. Courtesy of the Fairmont San Francisco

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