Clarion Plaza Exudes

LUXURY

Without the High Cost

One of the newest and most innovative hotels shaping the skyline around Orlando’s convention center is Harris Rosen’s 810-room Clarion Plaza. In the construction of this first-class hotel, Rosen, who is known for his cash-up-front, no-debt financing strategy, made sure his contractors used building products that were of the highest quality without strapping the construction budget.

Approximately 1,725,000 square feet of 1/2" drywall, 5/8" Firestop®, 5/8" Moisture Resistant Tile Backer board and Shaftliner™ panels (all Georgia-Pacific products) were used throughout the hotel. All the gypsum products were pre-packaged at nearby Kobrin Builders Supply, transported to the job site and hoisted into place on landings set up at each wing.

“That was a very effective and well-coordinated way to handle receiving,” says Arnie Wurst, president/owner of Region South Enterprises, Inc., the drywall contracting firm. “Handling the drywall that way resulted in much less damage. We were able to restock the materials after working hours so we could minimize the amount of material we moved.”

The lobby and meeting room areas of the hotel required especially skilled drywall contractors to finish off the intricate details created with metal framing at the ceiling soffits, reveals and columns.

The $55 million 14-floor L-shaped hotel, located adjacent to the Orange County Convention/Civic Center, features approximately 55,000 square feet of meeting and convention space, a wood-paneled pub/restaurant seating 100, a 320-seat coffee house and grand buffet with Matisse prints from Rosen’s personal collection hanging on its walls, a 250 person live entertainment lounge, a world-class electronic game room for children, the largest check-in area of any hotel in Orlando, and a heated outdoor pool with jacuzzi.

Clarion Plaza also features a 14th floor penthouse suite that overlooks half of south Orange County, an exclusive boutique/gift shop on the ground floor and elaborate bar facilities. And finally, a Rosen touch: valet laundry service for those on expense accounts and a coinoperated laundry on each floor for those who aren’t.

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