



The newly completed entry and porch create a grand entrance for the historic Hotel del Coronado.

The Hotel Del Coronado, built in 1888, is a record-breaking wooden Victorian hotel and resort located in Coronado just across the bay from San Diego. The Del, as it is locally known, has hosted presidents, royalty, and celebrities and has been featured in numerous movies and books. It was originally built for \$600,000.00 which is today's dollars is \$17 million. A recent restoration of the hotel cost \$400 million (that's 25 times the original cost!!!) and ensures that the Del will continue as a San Diego landmark well into the future – hopefully for another 133 years!

The architect James W. Reid designed only this one building in San Diego but ultimately the Reid Brothers firm was counted among the most prominent architects in San Francisco. Merritt Reid was the engineer for the building and his brother Watson helped supervise the 2,000 laborers needed to build the Hotel. The brothers were born in Canada and educated at the best schools in Europe and the United States.

The Crown Room was Reid's masterpiece. Its wooden ceiling was installed with pegs and glue. Not a single nail was used. The room was named for the crown chandeliers, designed by Frank Baum, the author of the Wizard of Oz. The huge room seats up to 450 guests for weddings and other events.



The original grounds had many amenities, including an Olympic-sized saltwater pool, tennis courts, a Japanese tea garden, an ostrich farm, billiards, and bowling alleys. Hunting expeditions, and deep-sea fishing were some of the features offered to guests. From 1900-1938 during the summertime a campground on the property housed many visitors.



The hotel was considered a technological wonder, including having the first oil furnace, steam-powered elevators, and electric lighting in a hotel. In 1904 the world's first electrically lit Christmas tree was put up outside the Del. This started a tradition which carries on today in the beautiful enormous Christmas tree each year lighting up the lobby.

Now, when you see a Christmas tree outside with electric lights you know that the first tree like this stood outside the Hotel Del.



Restored photochrom print of Hotel del Coronado by William Henry Jackson, c. 1900



Hotel del Coronado from the beach.