



A KIMPTON HOTEL

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Media Contacts:

Sandy Hillman Communications

Dorothy Fuchs / 410-616-8949 / dfuchs@hillmanpr.com

Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants

Stacey Ellis / 415-955-5492 / stacey.ellis@kimptongroup.com

**HOTEL MONACO BALTIMORE PRESERVES HISTORIC PAST OF FORMER
B&O RAILROAD HEADQUARTERS**

Boutique Hotel Provides State-of-the-Art Experience with Ambiance of a Bygone Era

BALTIMORE, MD – April 2009 – Somewhere between the graceful turn of the 20th century and the fast-paced world of today lays the Hotel Monaco Baltimore. The newest member of the Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants' family, the boutique property is housed in the former Baltimore & Ohio Railroad headquarters, one of the most historically significant buildings in Baltimore.

Located at the corner of Baltimore and Charles Streets in Baltimore's bustling mid-town business district, the hotel will open in Summer 2009 retaining many of the features from its historic past, such as its stunning twin marble staircases, a massive chandelier just inside the entryway, original priceless Tiffany windows, skylights flecked with green glass and Beaux-Arts style architectural elements.

Constructed in 1906, the majestic structure was a symbol of grandeur for what was then the city's most prominent business and replaced the B&O's former headquarters after it was destroyed by the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904. At the time, the building was a masterpiece of modern convenience with pneumatic mail tubes, central steam vacuum heating, filtered water supply and a lavish use of electric lighting.

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Two, significant sculptures grace the building's Charles Street entrance: the Roman god Mercury, a mythological symbol of commerce; and a figure, Progress of Industry, which holds a torch and locomotive – symbols of the B&O's interest in the railroad as a vehicle of progress. Both sculptures still exist today and harkens visitors back to a different time.

The 13-story, steel-framed building was designed by the architectural firm of Parker & Thomas. It is the only known Baltimore work associated with architect James Gamble Rogers, who later became known as a premier “image maker” architect for America's corporate elite and Yale University.

Aside from being a physical testament to the B&O's status as one of the nation's preeminent railroads, the building also was designed as a civic monument of progress, incorporating materials that were both lavish and novel, such as marble and concrete. At the time, the headquarters was billed as an “adornment to the city,” recognized for both its technological amenities as well as its impressive design and majestic beauty.

Listed as one of “Ten Enduring Landmarks of Baltimore's Central Business District” by the National Parks Service's Historic Buildings Survey, the building opened amidst great fanfare in 1906 as it coincided with the “Baltimore Jubilee” – a week-long festival of parades and entertainment designed to celebrate the city's rebirth following the 1904 fire. The celebration was also meant to emphasize the city's “progressive spirit,” of which the B&O building was a symbol.

ABOUT HOTEL MONACO BALTIMORE

Located in the heart of the bustling Baltimore business district, Kimpton's Hotel Monaco Baltimore artfully blends historic architectural elements with a bold, sophisticated and contemporary style. Originally the site of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Headquarters, this distinctive hotel features 202 luxurious rooms and suites with upscale amenities that create the perfect oasis for leisure and business travelers alike. This elegant boutique hotel will open in Summer 2009 and is located at 2 North Charles Street, just a short walk from the picturesque Inner Harbor and Baltimore Convention Center. For hotel reservations, call 443-692-6170 or visit www.monaco-baltimore.com.

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