

Earl Carroll Theatre Façade Restoration

Historic-Cultural Monument #: 1136 6230 Sunset Boulevard

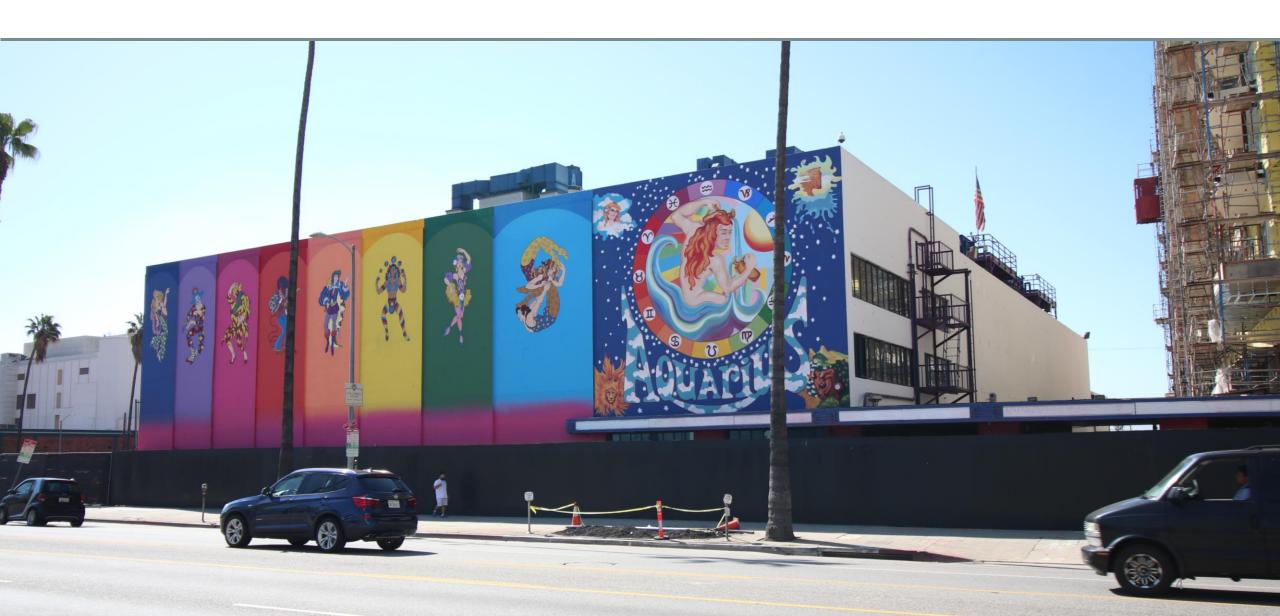
Exterior Restoration Team

- Rachael Stoddard and Scott Neville, Essex Property Trust and RB Latch
- Margarita Jerabek-Bray, Ph.D., Historic Preservation Consultant, ESA
- Roger Winston Bray, Architect, AIA, NCARB, Bray Architects
- Melvin Green, Historic Engineer, Melvin Green and Associates, Inc, and Robert Hale Randall,
 S.E., Saiful Bouquet Structural Engineers
- Dick Gee, AIA, Historic Architect, General Contractor, Spectra Company
- Paul Stoakes and Paul Greenstein, Signmakers and Dydia DeLyser
- Jacob Chan, Electrical Engineer, TPM Collaborative, Inc.
- Community Partners: Hollywood Heritage

Project Context



Project Context



Façade Restoration and Preservation

EIR/Conditions of Approval and agreement with Hollywood Heritage define the façade preservation project requirements:

- ✓ City Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination (Designated in 2016)
- Replace Historic Lighted Signage, including face of Beryl Wallace (In Progress)
- Façade Easement with LA Conservancy (In Progress)
- Historic Structures Report before interior alteration/modification (In Progress)
- ✓ Designate Parking Spaces within new Residential Project (Permitted and Under Construction)

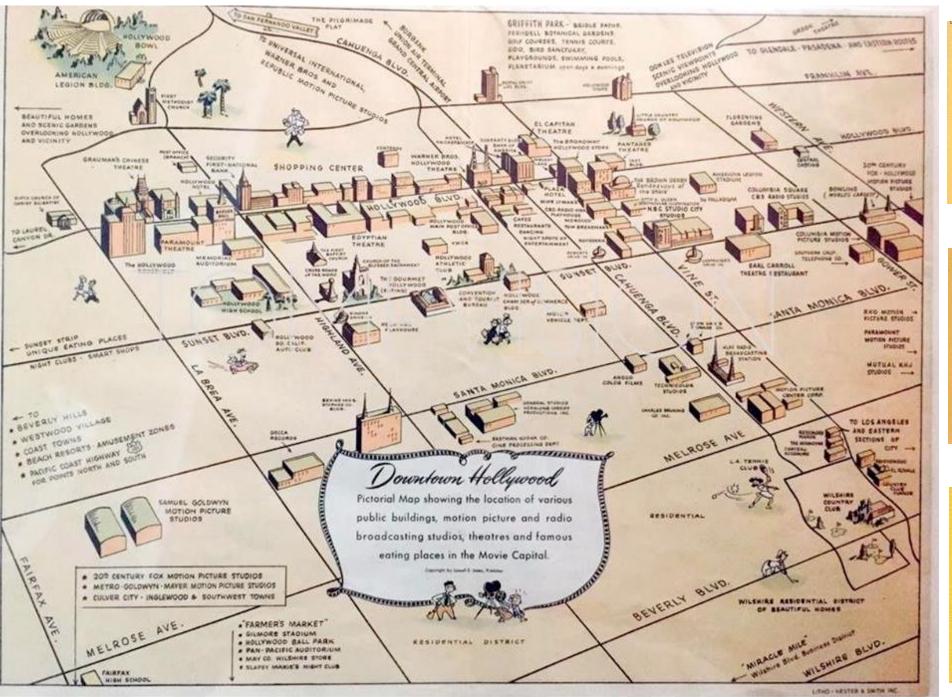
Historic Status and Context

The Earl Carroll Theatre

- Entertainment venue in the Streamline Moderne Architectural
 Style, attracted stylish patrons and advertised their modernity
- The Moderne style is associated with Los Angeles' prominence in automobile and early aerospace industry and culture
- Designed by master architect Gordon B. Kaufmann (1888-1949)
 and constructed by Ford J. Twaits Company

Historic Status and Context

- Moderne-style entertainment venues:
 - Hollywood Palladium-HCM-(built 1940), across the street from the ECT Building (extant)
 - CBS Columbia Square-HCM-(built 1938) (extant)
 - NBC Radio City (built 1938), Sunset & Vine (NE corner) (non-extant; now Chase Bank)
 - Pan-Pacific Auditorium-HCM-(built 1935), 7600 W. Beverly (destroyed by fire 1989-now Pan-Pacific Park with scaled-down replica of tower)
- 3rd theater built by Broadway impresario and showman Earl Carroll (1892-1948)
 - 1st theater was built 1922 in Broadway Theater District, NYC, and rebuilt 1931 (non-extant)











The Hollywood Palladium on its star-packed opening night, October 31st, 1940

Historic Context: Hollywood Palladium



After Reopening in 2008



CBS Columbia Square Studios, Sunset Blvd, circa mid 1940s

Historic Context: Columbia Square



Columbia Square, December 2017

Historic Context: NBC Radio City and Pan Pacific Auditorium



NBC Radio City, Sunset and Vine, Los Angeles, 1949



Exterior of the Pan Pacific Auditorium, ca 1930s



The Idea

The theatre is a land of make-believe. In no other field is the competition so keen, the fight for survival so bitter. In no other profession is success, once achieved, so easily lost. The fine line between success and lailure is imagination.

I had learned all these truisms through thirty years in the theatre. I needed them all in bringing to a successful conclusion an idea which has become the Earl Carroll Theatre-Restaurant.

This idea was predicated on observation and experience. Like many a producer, I was forced to face the inescapable fact the legitimate theatre was dying. Good restaurants were popular Night clubs flourished. But, in its search for entertainment, the public seemed to have forgotten the theatre.

Why not combine the best features of all three? Why not a theatre for those who craved a good show, a dance floor for those who wished to dance, dinner for those who wanted to dine? Why not weld all of the components of night life into one unit?

The idea, amusing to toy with, grew into the Earl Carroll Theatre-Restaurant,

For the first time, you buy your dinner at a box office.

Your seats (reserved in advance) assure you of a good table.

You hear a broadcast from an acoustically treated auditorium which doubles as a radio studio.

You dance on the largest doublerevolving stage ever constructed.

You witness a colorful stage revue featuring the most beautiful girls in the world while you enjoy an excellent full course dinner prepared by a celebrated chef.

You have found all the requirements of a pleasant evening—some reminiscent of your favorite theatre, others of your favorite restaurant, still others of your favorite night club—under one roof!

And, with your acceptance of the innovations of the Earl Carroll Theatre-Restaurant, you have become a pioneer in blazing the trail for a new, vital, glamorous entertainment style. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Americal





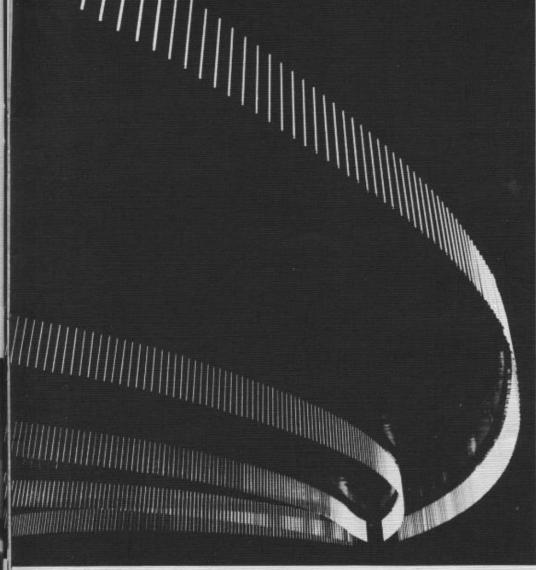
Look Magazine Photo By Earl Thiesen

Dedication

With numerous musical revues, stage shows and movies to his credit, Earl Carroll has at one time or another employed or worked with nearly every big-time screen and radio star who has come up from the stage. At the very beginning of the construction of the Earl Carroll Theatre-Restaurant in Hollywood, the three most popular comedians in the world, Bill Fields, Eddie Cantor and Jack Benny -all of whom have appeared in Carroll shows, and all of whom were in Hollywood at that time-donned overalls, dug away in the excavation for the grinding newsreel cameras, then went on the air over a coast-to-coast CBS network from the construction site to dedicate officially the building of the Theatre-Restaurant, Below: The finished product, described as the glamour spot of glamorous Hollywood.

Woodcock





IHE eyes of a nation have turned toward the architecture, construction, decoration and lighting effects of the Earl Carroll Theatre-Restaurant. The fusion of the great talents of Architect Gordon B. Kaufmann, Frank Don Riha, interior designer, and Ford J. Twaits, construction engineer, has resulted in what must be described as glamorous practicality. Among its innovations, the Theatre-Restaurant contains the world's first attempt at vertical lighting. Contrary to the usual first impression, the lights which hang from the ceiling are not ordinary neon, but fleurescent zeon. There are over 1800 three foot tubes measuring over a mile in length, each tube containing less than 2 watts. The auditorium itself is a departure from ordinary theatre construction best described as "tear-drop shaped," while the double-revolve, 80 foot main stage is the largest in the world. In searching for words to describe the edifice, one authority said: "It's designed for the 21st Century!" The description fitsl



Splendor

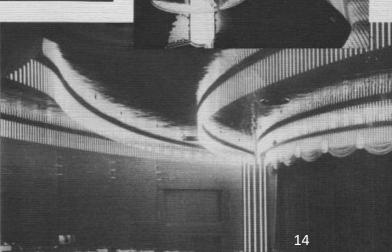
As judged by experts, the greatness of a work of art most often depends upon its adherence to a particular established class or school. The Earl Carroll Theatre-Restaurant, as the first building ever constructed for the wedding of a theatre and cafe, blazed new trails across the architectural sky. The comforts which you, as a patron, enjoy, are the results of painstaking attention to detail backed by experience and a touch of genius. Beauty and practicality blend into each other to produce a harmonious whole,

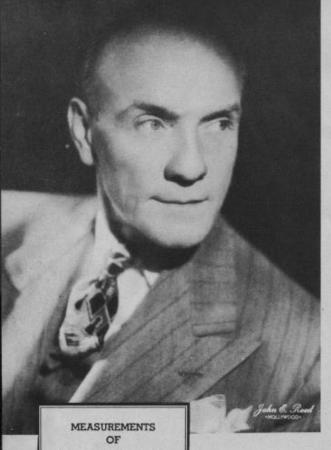


MORE elaborate than many a lamous cocktail lounge is the bar (upper right), above which are the portraits of the 'most beautiful girls in the world." Pillars of vari-colored light cast a comforting glow matching the deep rose, tans, blues and whites with which the entire Theatre-Restaurant is decorated. Flanking the stairs leading to the rest rooms are two statues by the renowned artist, Willy Pogany. The carved glass panel at the top of the staircase is the largest ever constructed and depicts "beautiful young ladies aspiring to stardom." The ladies' rest room (above, right) has walls lined in genuine fur, hand woven carpets and smoking tables of carved glass. The auditorium carries out the motif of luxury apparent in the theatre's appointments with a wood paneled wall on the left, a draped-in-satin wall on the right of the massive, tear-drop shaped, 40-feet-inheight room. The wood (masculine side) of the auditorium is brown, the draped satin (leminine side) is dark green, the china on the tables blends with the light rose colored chairs and the dark rose of the carpeting Tables are arranged in six terraces, each eleven feet wide and eighteen inches above



Architectural photos by Woodcock, Maynard Parker and Electrical Prod. Corp.





EARL CARROLL'S

IDEAL GIRL . . .

Heigh	t				5-5"
Weigh	at				118
Neck					12"
Bust					34"
Waist		*:			24"
Hips			*	3	51/2"
Thigh					19"
Ankla					9"

Wrist 6"

AWARD FOR BEAUTY

MARKING the stairway which leads from the lobby to the second story in the Theatre-Restaurant are two statues created by Willy Pogany. Symbolic, a pair of hands hold the epitome of beauty in their sensitive lingers. The hands are Mr Carroll's The statue (reproduced

Your Host * * * *

EARL CARROLL

For 2,000 years the theatre has flour-ished in varying forms. All types of entertainment have been presented from every conceivable kind of stage. But never until Earl Carroll constructed his Theatre-Restaurant in Hollywood has the word, "host," been used to describe a stage impresario. For the first time, inhospitable formality of theatre lobbies and seats has been dissipated. In their stead are an elaborate foyer and comfortable tables arranged in a luxuriously appointed auditorium. For the first time, too, theatre patrons enloy dinner and dancing, as well as a spectacular stage revue.

These innovations are not the result of an accident or a happy idea. They have their foundation in the experience and genius of a deep student of the theatre.

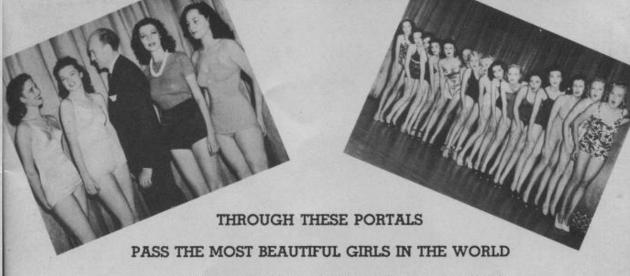
Earl Carroll, the man who has made the slogan, "Through these portals pass the most beautiful girls in the world," synonymous with fine musical amusement, now blazes a new trail as, "your host, Earl Carroll," with an intimate, friendly form of entertainment presented in surroundings of streamlined elegance at his Theatre-Restaurant in Hollywood, California.

For the first time, because of the complexity of the new entertainment form which he has created, the personality of the man has overshadowed the medium in which he works.

The great showman, who was born in Pittsburgh, was practically raised in the theatre. When he was only 10 years of age, he started as a program boy in his home town.

From that time on, his only interest was in the theatre—except for a few years when he traveled around the world seeking adventure. The only other time his theatrical career was interrupted was when he enlisted in the first World War as a pilot, spending 18 months in the United States Army Air Forces.

Starting as a song writer, Carroll became famous for several hits before he turned his talents toward producing. His first "Vanities" production was presented



Earl Carroll's famous slogan, "Through these portals pass the most beautiful girls in the world," has become a by-word throughout the nation. Originally coined by the great producer many years ago when he was presenting his stage revues in New York, the slogan, with slight changes, has been used numerous times by many organizations. Mr. Carroll, who first used the phrase as a tribute to his beautiful girls, received a letter from a group of lighting Marines stationed in the South Pacific, who asked if they might use the slogan over their barracks thusly: "Through these portals pass the linest lighting men in the world."

Above you see Earl Carroll, who personally selects all the beauties for his shows, and below, the finished product . . . "the most beautiful girls in the world"







taking. The show has a terrific pace. Willie Howard

-Ed Sullivan.

-Jimmy Starr.

was never funnier.

★ Earl Carroll's new revue with Willie and Eugene Howard and the "most beautiful girls in the world" ... is a riot of entertainment from start to linish -Louella Parsons.

* . . . Earl Carroll calls his new revue in 35 scenes and two acts "the World's Fairest," and I, for one, believe him. . . .

-Harry Crocker



THE WALL of FAME

Covering the entire Sunset Boulevard lacade of the Earl Carroll Theatre, actual autographs of celebrities of stage and screen form the much-talked about Earl Carroll "Wall of Fame."

Begun during the Screen Guild radio broadcasts at the Earl Carroll Theatre, each week saw more and more stars' names carved in the individual cement blocks. The huge squares are a permanent record of the handwriting of the glamorous folk who make Hollywood famous. The autographs are notable for their clarity and uniformity, as well as the characteristic greeting of each star.

There has been absolutely no reproduction or imitation in the writing. Over a long period of time, the signers each made personal appearances at the Earl Carroll Theatre to inscribe their names. As each autograph was placed in position, news of the "Wall of Fame" spread over the country. Now, the Wall is a landmark of which Hollywood is justly proud and which attracts, thousands of visitors yearly from all parts of the world.

Of the signatures, Shirley Temple's is the easiest to read; Clark Gable's is as rugged as his own virile personality; Zasu Pitts was so flustered at the occasion she wrote "Oh, My" in such large letters there was scarcely room for her own name

... Names already included in this stellar roster, additions to which are being made often, as famous stars visit the beautiful night-spot, are the following:

Brian Aherne Gracie Allen Don Ameche Ames 'n' Andy Edward Arnold Fred Astaire Gene Autrey Lew Ayres

Kenny Baker Binnie Barnes John Barrymore Wallace Beary Ralph Bellamy Joan Bennett Jack Benny Joan Blandell Eric Blore Humphrey Bogart Cacnie Bowell Charles Boyer Fanny Bries Joe E. Brown George Burns

James Cagney Eddie Cantor Earl Carroll Charles Coburn Claudette Colbert Ronald Colmen Gary Cooper Joan Crawlord Bing Crosby

Bette Davis
Olivia de Haviland
Cecil B. deMille
Andy Devine
Melvyn Douglas
Immy Durante

Clark Gable Judy Garland Reginald Gardiner Janet Gaynar Paulette Goddard Cary Grant

Alon Hole Louis Hayword Rita Hayworth Jean Hershalt William Holden Bob Hope Miriam Hopkins Hedda Hopper John Howard

Gloria Jean Alian Jones Leatrice Joy

Boris Karlolf

Elsa Lancaster Charles Laughton Margaret Lindsay Mary Livingstone Harold Lloyd Garole Lombard Montagu Love Myrna Lay Bela Lugosi Jelirey Lynn

Fred MacMurray Herbert Marshall Tony Martin George McManus Adolphe Menjou Bay Milland Ann Miller

Carmen Miranda

Maureen O'Sullivan Reginald Owen

Pranklin Pangborn Jean Parker Lauella Parsons Walter Pidgeon Zazu Pitts Eleanor Powell William Powell Tyrone Power

George Raft
Claude Rains
Basil Rathhone
Ronald Reagan
Ritz Bros.
Ddward G. Robinson
Buddy Rogers
Ginger Rogers
Mickey Rooney
Charlle Ruggles
Rocalind Russell

Norma Shearer Ann Sothern Barbara Stanwyck Jimmy Stewayt

Robert Taylor Shirley Temple Franchot Tone Spencer Tracy Claire Trevor Long Turner

Rudy Valles

Beryl Wallace









Some more of the young people of Hair - in this case, the ushers and usherettes, good-naturedly mimicking the cast picture in the front of the Souvenir Book.

The Dawning of the Age of the Aquarius Theater

With Hair, Los Angeles witnesses not only the premiere of a play that has been called "the first new direction in American theatre in a decade" but also the birth of one of our town's finest legitimate theatres.

The Aquarius Theater began its life as a glittering landmark, "The Earl Carroll Theatre." In 1938 Earl Carroll made his decision to open his theatre and supper club at 6230 Sunset Boulevard. In just 75 days he converted an empty acre of ground into the dazzling night club and theatre that was to bear his name and house his world-famous revues for a decade until his death. In those short weeks he created a building so advanced that, thirty-one years later, no one has yet matched its glory or technical virtuosity.

The facade of the original theatre held two of Hollywood's most renowned landmarks: the twenty-foot high "painting in neon" of Beryl Wallace, one of Earl Carroll's "Most beautiful girls in the world"; and Sunset Boulevard's "Wall of Fame," presenting in cement personal inscriptions to Earl Carroll from more than 150 of Hollywood's most glamorous stars. These landmarks still attract hundreds of visi-

tors daily.



Bridging the generation gap, the world famous Earl Carroll Theatre is now Aquarius Theater. Instead of revues highlighting "the most beautiful girls in the world," the theatre now reverberates to the excitement of Hair.

swings which lower from the auditorium ceiling, the elevator, revolving staircase and the rain machine are part of a stage machinery complex not duplicated in any theatre in America. Combined with the more recently added motion picture projection equipment and stage lighting system, Aquarius Theater today is superior to any in the country.

The design and renovation of the Aquarius Theater, under the direction of talented young scenic designer Michael Baugh, was in the breathtaking tradition of Earl Carroll's 75 day initial building program. In just 60 days, with craws working around the clock, the entire in-

Nickelodeon on Sunset



View to southwest, 2015



View to southeast, 2015

Period of Significance

Period of significance is the building's opening in 1938 through 1948

- Association with Hollywood entertainment industry
 - The Earl Carroll Theatre "rivaled every nightclub in the world", staging largest most lavish productions, signaling a new era for West Coast entertainment
 - Paralleled rise and fall of big-production Hollywood nightlife
- Association with significant personage, Earl Carroll,
 - From opening until Carroll's death in a plane crash along with his companion and star performer, Beryl Wallace
- Period of significance for architecture is 1938, when building was completed



Earl Carroll and Beryl Wallace, June 1937 23

Exterior Character-Defining Features



Existing Significant Features to be Repaired

- 3-story scale, rectangular massing
- Reinforced concrete construction, parapet, arched truss roof
- Concrete "Steps" on the Sunset façade
- Two parallel bands of steel ribbon windows
- Three-bay Porte-Cochere and marquee

Exterior Character-Defining Features







Missing Significant Features to be Reconstructed

- Neon Signage, Marquee and Channel Letters
- Column cladding
- Lobby Windows

Methods, Research & Investigations

Preservation Approach - Rehabilitation as Theater

Researched:

- Historic plans, permits, historic photographs and postcards, reviewed descriptions of theater in contemporary publications
- Historic neon colors and installation methods

Studied existing conditions surveys, structural investigations, paint analysis

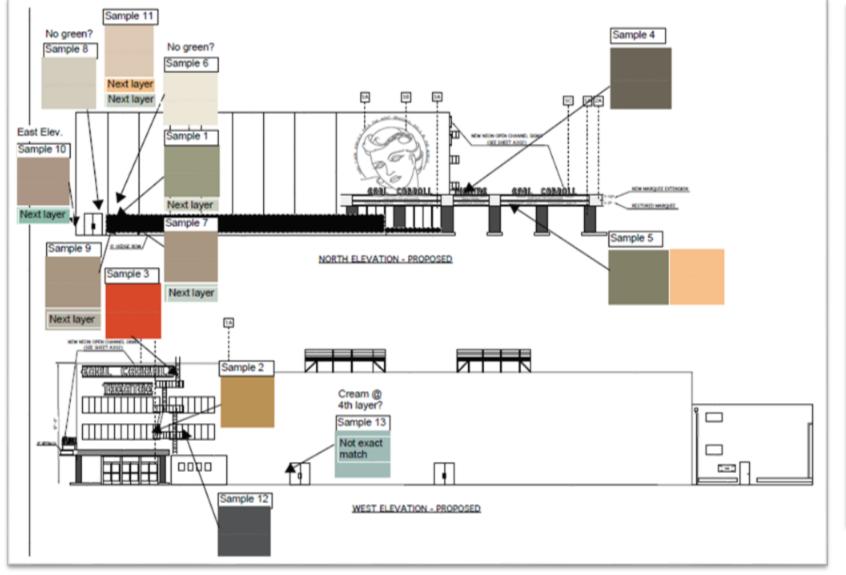
Restoration Scope of Work

- Concrete Façade Repair and Repainting
- West Façade Ribbon Windows Restoration
- Sunset Façade Lobby Window Replacement
- Porte-Cochere and Marquee Restoration
- Structural Strengthening of Porte-Cochere
- Replace Historic Neon
- Paving and Accessibility Improvements
- Life Safety Improvements
- Security Improvements

Concrete Façade Repair and Repainting

- Concrete is in good condition with little signs of spalling or evidence of corrosion
- Paint analysis found the first paint scheme was light tan with a gray wainscot
- Next layer is a light green that corresponds with contemporary descriptions discovered during research
- Recommendation: Use two-tone light green color scheme

Paint Analysis





Evidence for Light Green Color Scheme

30

California ARTS & ARCHITECTURE

THE EARL CARROLL THEATER

Hollywood, California

GORDON B. KAUFMANN, F.A.I.A.

Architect

DON RIHA Interior Decorator

Interiors Executed By W. & J. SLOANE



Photographs by Maynard Parker

Among the latest Hollywood nightclub ventures, Earl Carroll's Theater is startling in its elaborate use of new materials and extravagant designs. The exterior is simple relying on the extensive use of neon lighting against light green concrete walls to

The main dining room, facing the enormous revolving stage has a section capacity of one thousand. Against a ceiling of black patent leather, slender strips of trubble light reflect a brilliant, diffused glow. One side of the enormous wall is draped in satin and velours while the opposite side is covered with photographic wallpaper that gives the impression of paneling.

The entrance is divided by a striking bronze depicting a streamlined young woman. The feeling of motion is heightened by a scrawl of tubular light that extends from the base to the ceiling. Tubular lighting is used profusely. The railings and pillars reflect soft colorful shades, even your drink at the bar is filled with glittering light from tubes hidden in the counter.

The staircase leading to the smoking rooms faces an enormous panel of carved glass depicting a group of inspired young ladies. The statues of the delicate young nudes were designed by William Pogany. The walls are covered with a veneer of matched prima vera wood.

Lambs' fur in a soft peach shade covers the walls of the ladies' elaborate powder room. A dubonnet carpet is hand woven, and the upholstering of luxurious sofas is in soft pastel shades of green, peach and cafe-au-lait. Light is provided indirectly from the ceiling. An unusual sandblasted class table is illuminated in the center.

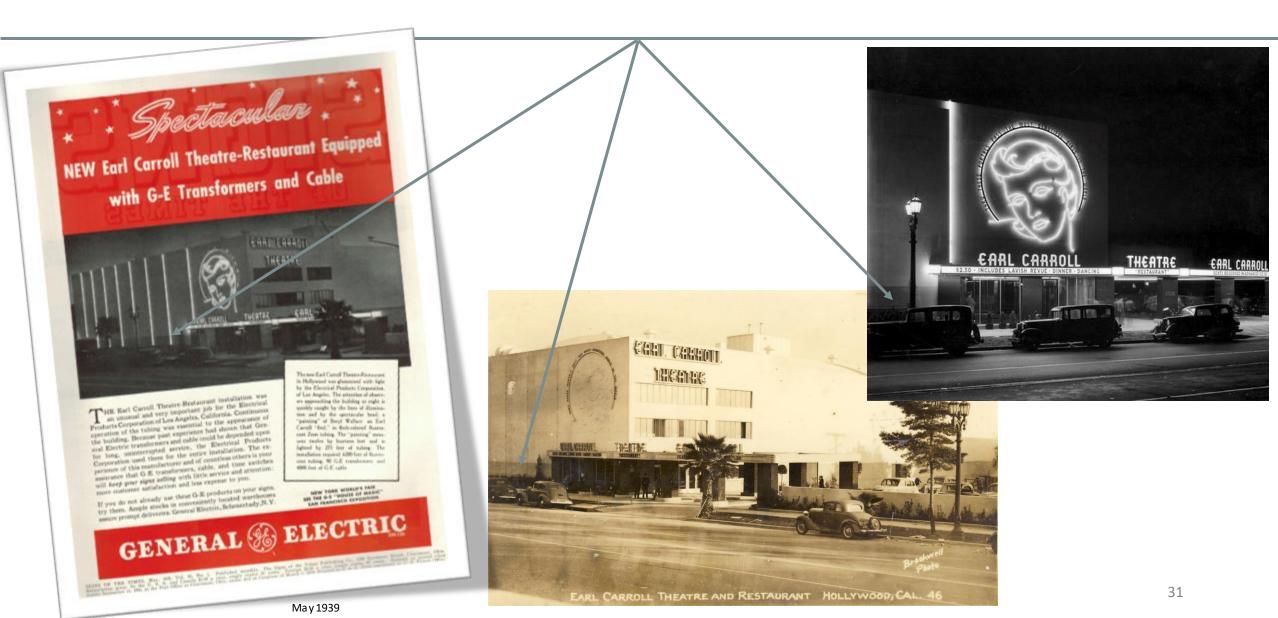


https://losangelestheatres.blogspot.com/2017/02/earl-carroll-theatre.html

"Among the latest Hollywood nightclub venues, Earl Carroll's Theater is startling in its elaborate use of new materials and extravagant designs. The exterior is simple relying on the extensive use of neon lighting against light green concrete walls to attract attention."

- California Arts and Architecture, 1939

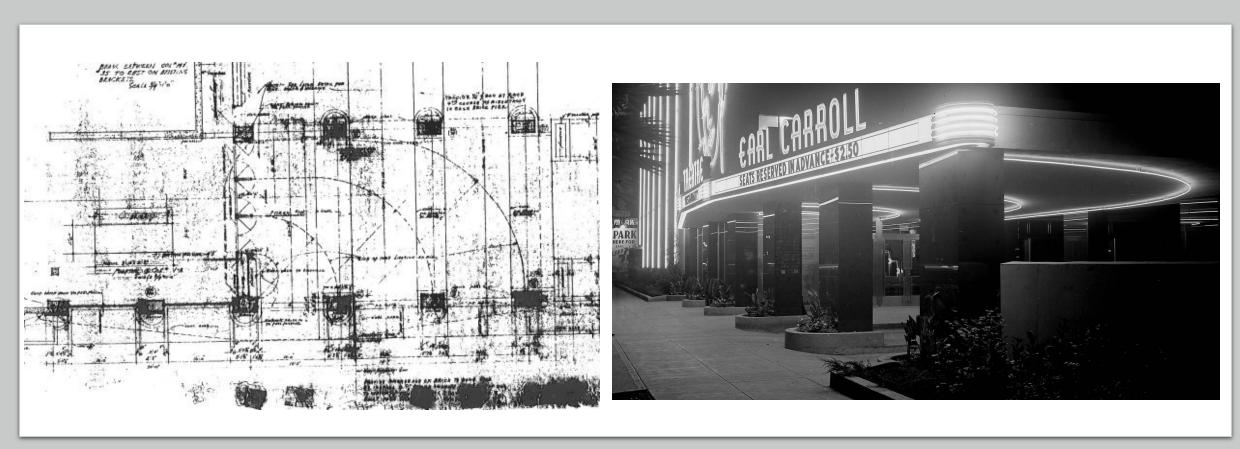
Evidence for Two-Tone Paint



Porte Cochere Rehabilitation

- Structural analysis recommends a structural retrofit
- Installing hidden grade beams and column reinforcement
- Restore Vitrolite column cladding
- Neon at ceiling will be restored utilizing original drawings
- Install supplemental lighting system
- Restore original smooth painted glossy finish to ceiling

Porte Cochere Historic Plans and Photos

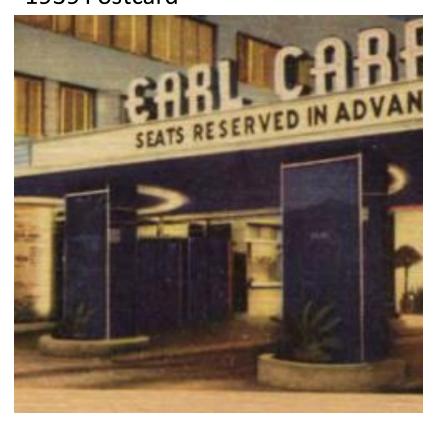


Porte Cochere Column Cladding Restoration



Porte Cochere Column Cladding Restoration

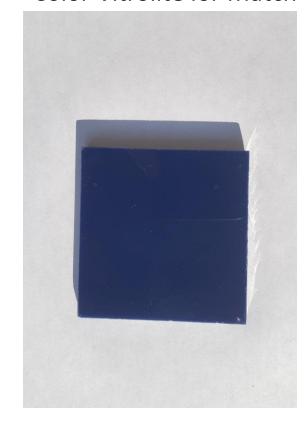
Vitrolite Cladding on Columns, 1939 Postcard



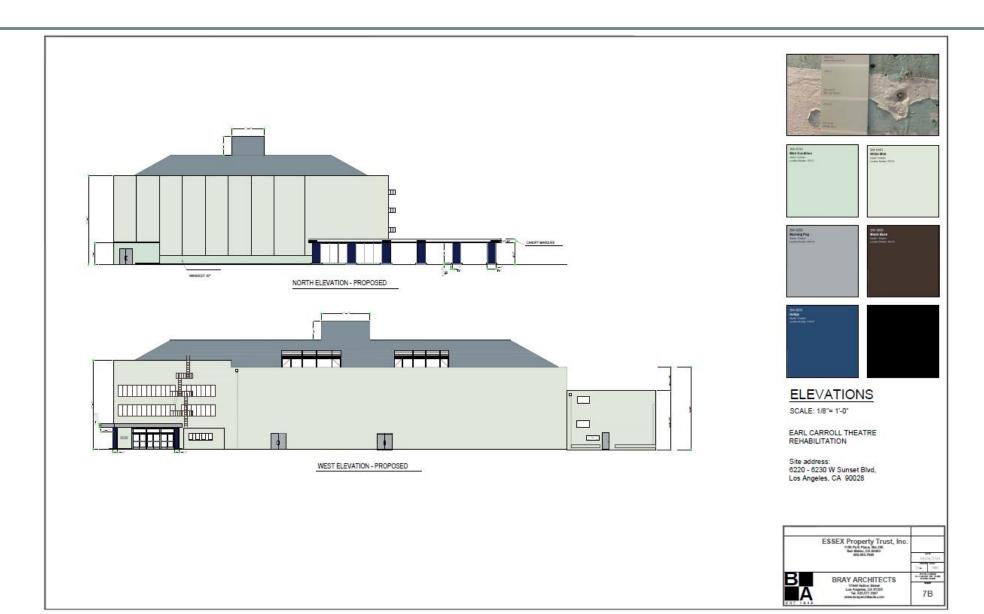
Existing Condition



Sample Catalog Color Vitrolite for Match



Proposed Color Scheme



Restoration of Lobby Windows







Photo from 1940

Existing Windows (Altered) and Vitrolite Cladding Lost (ESA 2015)

Restoration of West Elevation Windows



Existing Windows, 2020



Historic Photo from 1940/41

Restore Historic Neon



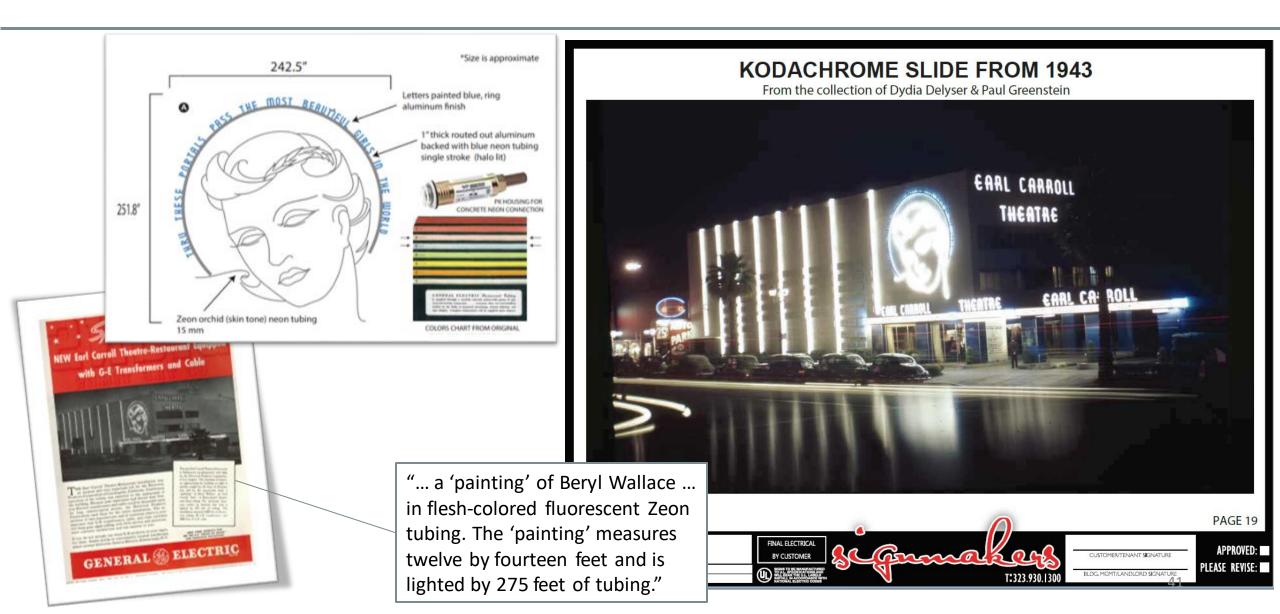


Vertical Stripes and Porte-Cochere

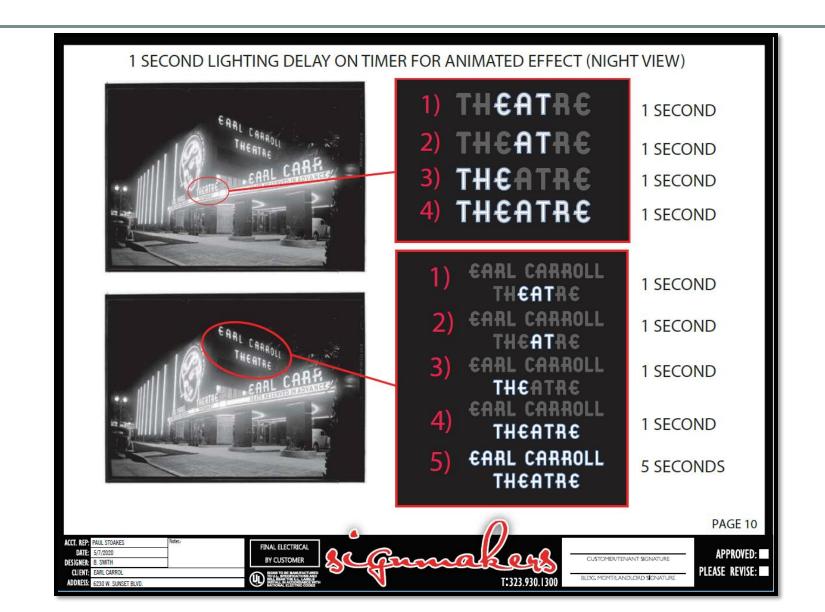




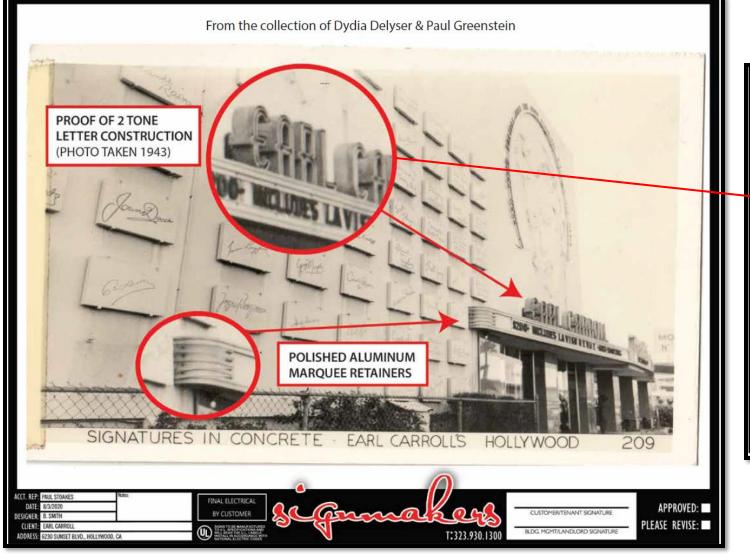
Neon Colors: Face of Beryl Wallace

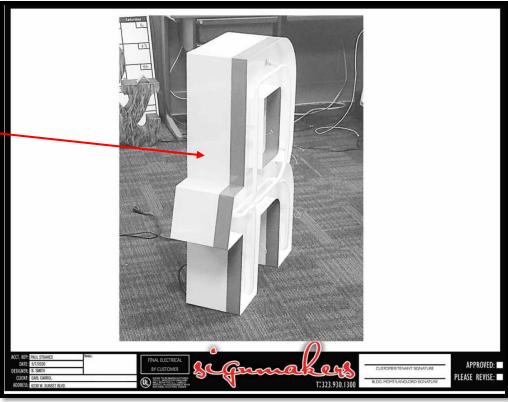


Neon Animation: Eat at the Theatre



Two-Toned Letters





Thank You

