

= Manila Hotel =

The Manila Hotel is a 570 @-@ room , historic five @-@ star hotel located along Manila Bay in Manila , Philippines . The hotel is the oldest premiere hotel in the Philippines built in 1909 to rival Malacañang Palace , the official residence of the President of the Philippines and was opened on the commemoration of American Independence on July 4 , 1912 . The hotel complex was built on a reclaimed area of 35 @,@ 000 square metres ( 380 @,@ 000 sq ft ) at the northwestern end of Rizal Park along Bonifacio Drive in Ermita . Its penthouse served as the residence of General Douglas MacArthur during his tenure as the Military Advisor of the Philippine Commonwealth from 1935 to 1941 . The hotel contains the offices of several foreign news organizations , including The New York Times . It has hosted numerous world historical persons and celebrities including authors Ernest Hemingway and James A. Michener ; actors Douglas Fairbanks , Jr. and John Wayne ; publisher Henry Luce ; entertainers Sammy Davis , Jr . , Michael Jackson and The Beatles ; U.S. President John F. Kennedy , Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden , and other world leaders .

The hotel tower , built as part of the hotel 's renovation and expansion from 1975 to 1977 , is the tallest hotel tower in the Manila Bay area .

= = History = =

When the United States took over the Philippine Islands from the Spanish in 1898 after the Spanish ? American War , President William McKinley began Americanizing the former Spanish colony . In 1900 he appointed William Howard Taft to head the Philippine Commission to evaluate the needs of the new territory . Taft , who later became the Philippines ' first civilian Governor @-@ General , decided that Manila , the capital , should be a planned town . He hired as his architect and city planner Daniel Hudson Burnham , who had built Union Station and the Postal Square Building in Washington . In Manila , Burnham had in mind a long wide , tree @-@ lined boulevard along the bay , beginning at a park area dominated by a magnificent hotel . To execute Burnham 's plans , Taft hired William E. Parsons , a New York architect , who envisioned an impressive , comfortable hotel along the lines of a California mission but grander . The original design was an H @-@ shaped plan that focused on well @-@ ventilated rooms on two wings , providing grand vistas of the harbor , the Luneta , and Intramuros . The top floor was , in fact , a large viewing deck that was used for various functions , including watching the American navy steam into the harbor .

= = = First renovation = = =

During the start of the Philippine Commonwealth in 1935 , President Manuel Quezon hired Paris @-@ trained Filipino architect Andres Luna de San Pedro , son of painter Juan Luna , to take charge of the renovations of the Manila Hotel . It was done under the supervision of the renowned engineering firm Pedro Siochi and Company . The hotel was the residence of General Douglas MacArthur when he became the Military Advisor of the Commonwealth . Luna converted the hotel 's top floor into an elegant penthouse and expanded the west wing northward ? creating the air @-@ conditioned annex - and designed some key public rooms like the Fiesta Pavilion , then the biggest function room of the hotel . The hotel was the site of festivities during the inauguration of the Philippine Commonwealth government in November , 1935 .

= = = World War II = = =

During World War II , the hotel was occupied by Japanese troops , and the Japanese flag was flown above the walls for the entirety of the war . During the Battle for the Liberation of Manila , the hotel was set on fire by the Japanese . The shell of the building survived the blaze and the structure was later reconstructed .

= = = Under Martial law = = =

During the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos , in accordance with Presidential Decree no . 645 , the old Manila Hotel Company was liquidated and the government took over its ownership . The Government Service Insurance System ( GSIS ) was given the mandate to form a new subsidiary corporation that would restore , renovate , and expand the Manila Hotel . In the following two decades , Mr. Marcos 's wife , Imelda , could frequently be seen at the hotel restaurants . During her visits , a red carpet and garlands were put out and the air was sprayed with deodorant . Under Imelda 's patronage , the hotel reaped international recognition and awards . It was the place to go and be seen during the martial law years .

= = = 1975 renovation = = =

The hotel was remodeled in 1975 and expanded to 570 rooms with the addition of the high @-@ rise hotel building behind the original five @-@ story structure . The renovations were headed by National Artists for Architecture Leandro Locsin and Ildefonso Santos with Patricia Keller , partner in the international interior design firm of Dale Keller & Associates . Guest amenities were updated including executive services , language translation , a business library and color television and closed circuit movies . The hotel 's spartan interiors in simplified Mission style gave way to more lavish furnishings . Inauguration and formal reopening ceremonies of the Manila Hotel was held on October 6 , 1977 .

= = = Transfer of ownership = = =

Around 1995 , the Government Service Insurance System ( GSIS ) called a bidding to sell the property . The tender went to a Malaysian firm , the Renong Berhad and ITT @-@ Sheraton combine over Emilio Yap , a Chinese Filipino billionaire tycoon and owner of the Manila Bulletin , the country 's largest newspaper by circulation . Yap went to the Supreme Court of the Philippines and won by matching Rehong 's bid and citing the Constitution 's Filipino First policy in the ownership of a ' national patrimony ' . Fifty one percent of the ownership was awarded to Yap 's Manila Prince Hotel Corporation ( MPHC ) , while new owners joined on April 25 , 1997 as 49 percent shareholder . Yap signed a check for ? 673 @. @ 2 million and the MPHC took over the property on May 7 , 1997 . One of the first things Yap did was to pull down the three brass chandeliers in the lobby , upon recommendation of a feng shui expert , and replace them with five .

= = = Centennial = = =

In 2008 , the Manila Hotel underwent a series of renovations in time for its centennial celebration in 2012 . All of the hotel 's rooms were refurbished and renovated and equipped with modern facilities and amenities . The rooms windows were enlarged . The hotel also opened a Health Club next to the Manila Hotel Health Spa .

On January 17 , 2008 the Manila Hotel Tent City , located west of the original structure was opened . The performance / conference hall could accommodate 2 @, @ 500 guests for wedding receptions , anniversaries , conventions , and exhibitions . Its high ceilings allow even the most complex of venue set @-@ ups and design . The Tent became the center stage when the hotel celebrated its 100th anniversary with a Centennial Ball on July 4 , 2012 with President Benigno Aquino III as the guest @-@ of @-@ honor .

= = Political events = =

Through the years , Manila Hotel have been the scene of historic events in the country . The Philippine Constitutional Convention of 1970 was held at the Fiesta Pavilion of the hotel on November 10 . The convention attended by 320 delegates was called to change the Philippine Constitution that has been in existence since the start of the Philippine Commonwealth in 1935 .

The political party of Ferdinand Marcos held its convention at the Manila Hotel before the February 1986 presidential election and Corazon C. Aquino delivered a speech at the hotel that was a turning point in her presidential campaign . Marcos 's rule ended in February 1986 after the 1986 EDSA Revolution .

On July 6 , 1986 , a group of military officers loyal to deposed President Marcos took over the Manila Hotel and declared Arturo Tolentino , who was Marcos 's vice presidential running mate , as president . However , the coup did not last long , they surrendered two days later .

The hotel received international attention in 1999 when Imelda Marcos , the former First Lady , celebrated her 70th birthday in this hotel . More than 1 @, @ 000 of Manila 's elite turned up in the event .

= = Features = =

= = = Lobby = = =

Measuring 125 feet ( 38 m ) long by 25 feet ( 7 @. @ 6 m ) wide , the lobby is lined with white Doric columns . The floor is Philippine marble ; the chandeliers are made of brass , crystal and seashells ; the furniture is carved out of Philippine mahogany , which is used throughout the hotel .

= = = Suites = = =

The three @-@ bedroom MacArthur suite was the residence of Gen. MacArthur while living in the country . The suite is located at the 5th floor of the original structure .

The Penthouse , the most expensive suite with its private swimming pool on the 18th floor , has a view of Manila Bay , Rizal Park and the 16th @-@ century Spanish walled city of Intramuros opposite the hotel . Like the Presidential Suite , the penthouse is decorated with rare paintings , Asian antiques and Filipino crafts . The MacArthur , Presidential and Penthouse Suites provide 24 @-@ hour butler service .

= = = Facilities and services = = =

The hotel 's guest facilities and other services include limousine and luxury car rental , a helipad on the roof deck , airport transfer and transport assistance , medical clinic , a Business Center with Internet access , 24 @-@ hour full menu room service and concierge , laundry service , a delicatessen , a hair salon and souvenir shops .

= = = Recreation = = =

The Manila Hotel Spa is located by the bay offering massages and other therapies . Guests could use the outdoor pool and the Health Club .

= = = Restaurants = = =

The hotel has three restaurants , three bars and a delicatessen offering a range of cuisines , from Chinese to European . These are Cafe Ilang @-@ Ilang , Champagne Room , Mabuhay Palace , Tap Room Bar , Lobby Lounge and Pool Bar .