

California Construction

BREAKING NEWS STORY Tower Contracted for LAX Theme Building Renovation

Tower General Contractors, the largest minority-owned general contractor in Los Angeles County, announced that it has been selected to renovate the historic LAX Theme Building. The \$15 million renovation of the 1961 Los Angeles landmark structure is set to begin next month and to be completed in August 2009.

Renovation will include several elements: structurally reinforcing the steel arches and replacing the exterior surface along the four (4) arches of the Theme Building. The renovation will also include the seismic retrofit of the 28-foot high plaza level screen wall with carbon polymer fiber wrap and installing additional foundation grade beams along the perimeter on helical piles. Once the renovation is complete, the observation platform that was closed shortly after September 11th will be reopened to the public.

The project includes the seismic retrofit of the 130-foot high "core" building structure and the addition of a 1.3 million pound, state of the art, Tuned Mass Damper (TMD). A TMD minimizes the movement of a building in the event of an earthquake.

The distinctive white building resembles a flying saucer that has landed on its four legs. It was designed in 1961 by a team of architects and engineers headed by William Pereira and Charles Luckman, that also included Paul Williams and Welton Becket. A restaurant that once provided a rotating view of the airport is suspended beneath two intersecting arches that form the legs. The Los Angeles City Council designated the building a cultural and historical monument in 1992.

"Tower is honored to be working on such a historic building structure that so many people see when they walk through Los Angeles International Airport," commented Alex Guerrero, Executive Vice President of Tower General Contractors. "We look forward to upgrading and modernizing this very important part of the area's historical landscape, while maintaining the classic beauty that people have come to know and love."

Commented Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, "There is no structure at any airport, anywhere, that is better known and more completely captures the history and character of the surrounding city. The LAX Theme Building is as L.A. as you get, and I am thrilled to be moving forward with its renovation and modernization. LAX will continue to be the gateway to America."

