



Cavallo Point - The Lodge at the Golden Gate was transformed from the Fort Baker army base into a green hotel on the bay near Sausalito, California. Contemporary hillside buildings were designed to blend with historic wood-frame structures that stand around a ten-acre parade ground at the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge.

photography by MATTHEW MILLMAN

text by LINDA HAYES

HOTELS

Cavallo Point

A sustainable luxury resort with dramatic views of the Golden Gate Bridge arises on the site of a former army base in California's Marin County



above left The Fort Baker Retreat Group, who reimagined the army base with the help of Architectural Resources Group, turned officers' quarters into guest lodging. **above right** BraytonHughes Design Studios outfitted the baths in the historic buildings-turned-guest-suites with custom vanities and mirrors, and sconces from Top Brass. **below** Farley Bar features original tin ceilings and maple floors; Janus et Cie chairs encircle custom walnut tables. A. Rudin bar chairs upholstered with Townsend leather pull up to a custom bar with a reclaimed walnut top. The custom chandeliers are from ELA Lighting.





When we saw the setting on the bay, minutes from one of the greatest cities in the world and within seventy-five thousand acres of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, we saw potential for something great," says Ted Lieser, project manager for Equity Community Builders (ECB) in San Francisco. "We knew we had to develop this gem of Marin County in the best way possible," continues Lieser, describing the motivation behind the transformation of Fort Baker—a former U.S. Army base at the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge near Sausalito—into Cavallo Point - The

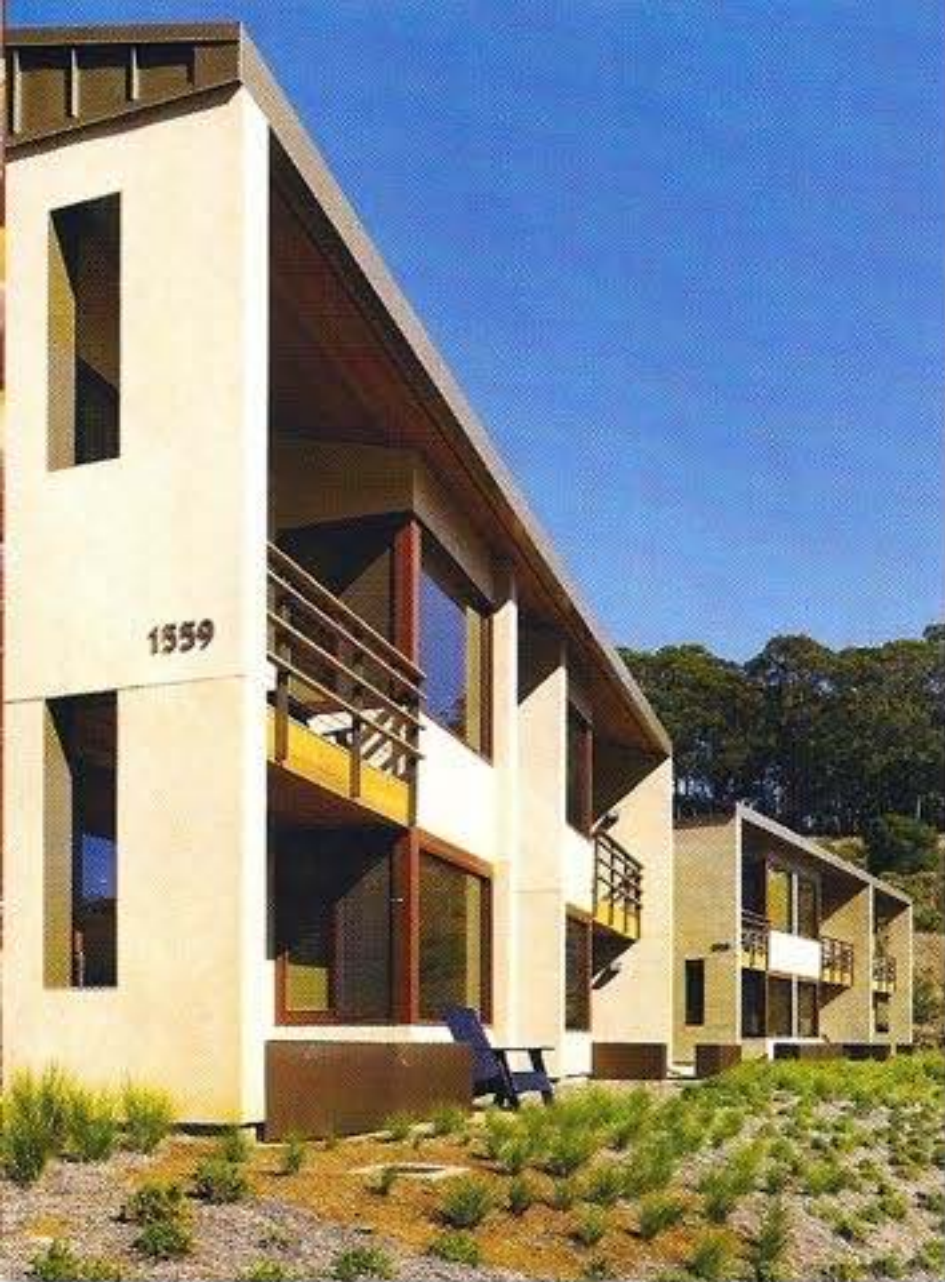
Lodge at the Golden Gate, which ECB hopes will achieve LEED certification in 2009.

Experienced in urban infill development, ECB partnered with Passport Resorts (managers of Post Ranch Inn, Hotel Hana-Maui and others) and Ajax Capital to form the Fort Baker Retreat Group, which was awarded the responsibility of restoring and reshaping the historic base by the National Parks Service with the support of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

"The park service's original environmental impact statement allowed for up to three hundred and fifty guest rooms," Lieser says. "We felt that preserving the

above The designers arranged one of the two-room guest suites in a historic building with an armchair and sofa from Chair Choice, a walnut low table from modernobject, an ottoman from Delta Furniture and a Jim Misner floor lamp. The ceramic tile fire surrounds, wood mantels and sliding wood doors were restored as part of the preservation of the buildings.





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integrity of the site called for something much smaller and as green as possible." The Fort Baker Retreat Group's recommendation to downsize to 156 rooms helped seal the deal. In the end, the room count maxed out at 142: 68 set in former officers' quarters and 74 within new construction. Twenty-one historic buildings—including barracks, a gymnasium and a chapel, constructed around a grassy, ten-acre parade ground—were rehabilitated.

The task of designing and directing the restoration of the historic buildings fell to the San Francisco-based firm Architectural Resources Group. "It was immediately clear that the officers' quarters could become lodging," explains senior associate and project manager Deborah J. Cooper. "The goal was to preserve as much of the character and integrity of the two-story wood-frame buildings as possible." Wood floors were refinished, tin ceilings restored and free-standing gas fireplaces installed in front of historic mantels. "We had to remove the tin ceilings piece by piece," says Cooper, "then number and catalog them so they could go back exactly where they came out."

A reception area as well as a restaurant, bar and cooking school are housed in a pair of former barracks that were in need of

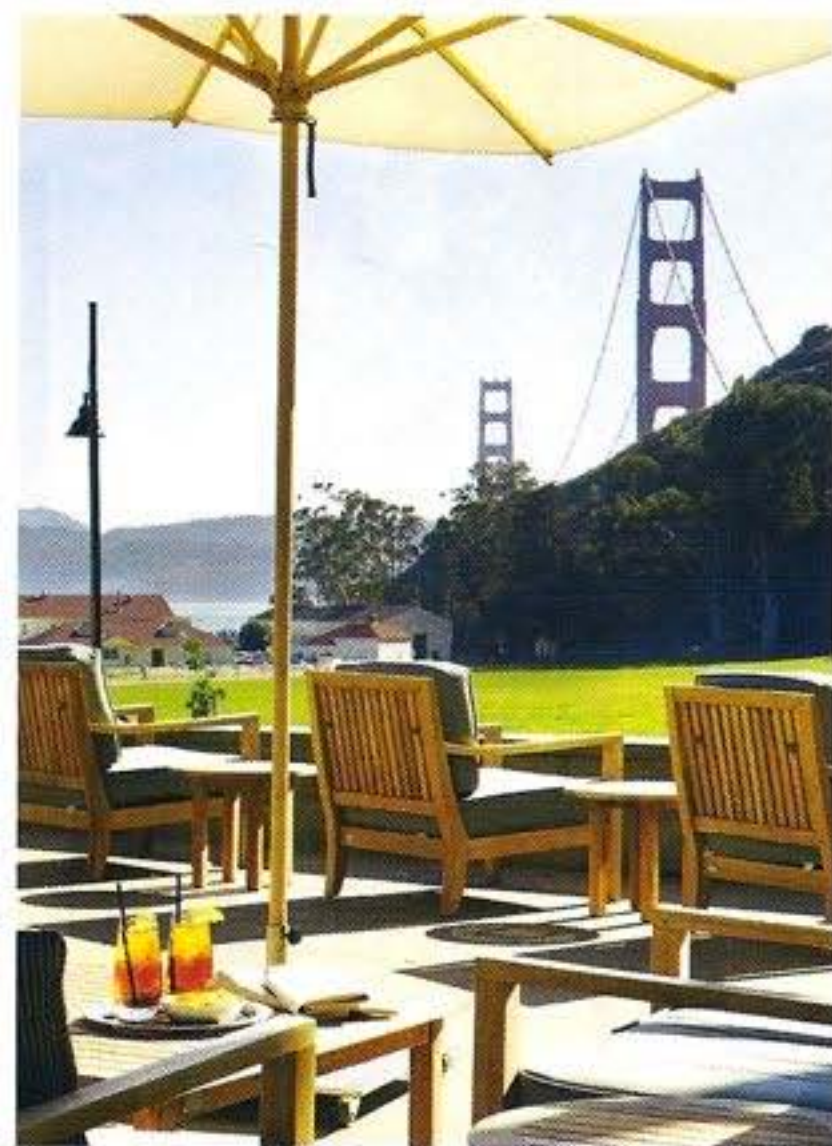
repair. "Outside, the historic facades remain in place," Cooper says. "A pair of two-story porches, removed in the fifties, are replicas, but all single-story porches are the originals."

Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects, also based in San Francisco, designed new hillside buildings constructed on the footprint of non-historic structures that had been removed. "The strategy was to design a cluster of small-scale contemporary buildings with metal roofs that didn't compete with the beautiful white historic buildings," explains Marsha Maytum, a principal at the firm, which also designed a new 11,000-square-foot Healing Arts Center & Spa.

Throughout the project, careful consideration was given to the interior design, which was created by Stanford Hughes, Laura Cook and Jennifer Shallenberger of BraytonHughes Design Studios in San Francisco. The color schemes and the materials of the old and the new interiors relate to the California landscape. Renewable and recycled materials were used in both settings when possible. "It has a sense of place," says Cook. "We wanted it to have soul." +

CAVALLO POINT LODGE

601 Murray Circle, Fort Baker, Sausalito, CA 94965; 888.651.2003, cavallopoint.com



opposite The Healing Arts Center & Spa, designed by Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects, has a floating staircase and connects to a garden. **top left** The new guest suites display cement plaster walls, metal roofs, and metal and reclaimed-redwood balcony railings. **top right** A double-sided bamboo fireplace in a new guest suite. **above** The terrace near the restaurant offers views of the Golden Gate Bridge.