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La Fonda remodeling moves to public spaces



The La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe. (Eddie Moore/Albuquerque Journal)

By [ABQJournal News Staff](#)

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SANTA FE — La Fonda on the Plaza, after a couple of major upgrades already in recent years, is now re-doing public spaces on the ground floor to complete a “refresh” of the historic Santa Fe hotel by May.

The latest set of improvements will include the lobby, La Fiesta Lounge, the gift shop, the public bathrooms, the garage vestibule and the public corridors from the garage.

This third and final phase of a revitalization project is intended to “round out La Fonda’s commitment to upgrade the hotel in order to meet the current comforts of luxury while staying true to its historical authenticity and unique character,” said an announcement from the hotel.

“It is an understatement to say the entire hotel staff is thrilled in knowing that the front of our home and the public amenities of the hotel will soon match the beautiful renovations that have been completed for all the guest rooms upstairs,” hotel chairman Jennifer Kimball said. The hotel’s centerpiece La Plazuela restaurant, surrounded by 460 painted window panes, was the focus of the first phase of the improvement plan, starting in 2009.

The latest updates will “return to the original feel of ample space in the main lobby,” the announcement said. An extension of the vestibule at the garage entrance will create a larger, “more gracious” entryway, as well as provide more weather protection and seating. The vestibule path to the main lobby and reception desk will get enhanced lighting along with new retail display cases.

Two new handicap-accessible bathrooms will be added on the first and second floors (La Fonda’s restrooms are already beloved as about the only ones open to the public on the Plaza). The concierge and business center will be relocated to current gift shop space. A new gift gallery, Detours at La Fonda, will open at the corner of Old Santa Fe Trail and San Francisco Street.

The south portal fireplace space will become the temporary home of La Fiesta Lounge for about six weeks as the lounge undergoes renovation.



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