California Council For The Humanities

presents

"Searching for San Diego"

TOUR OF LA JOLLA "VILLAGE"

Conducted By:

Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO)

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La Jolla Tour

 La Jolla Branch Library/Athenaem 1006 Wall Street

Ellen Browning Scripps donated one half of the funds needed for the erection of this building; the other half was donated by the La Jolla community. Completed in 1921, local architect William Templeton Johnson received an award from the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects (A.I.A.) for his design of the Spanish Colonial Revival styled La Jolla Library building. In 1956. a wing was added to house a music library—the Athenaeum (Greek for "the meeting place").

The library's Spanish Colonial Revival style is exemplified in its thick structural clay tile walls, painted white to resemble stuccoed adobe, which support a red terra cotta clay tile roof with a slightly projecting plain cornice. Its windows have expansive lintels with wooden French-style casement windows. A columned entry porch has a projecting hip roof covering the recessed entry.

In 1956, the privately funded Athenaeum, the only library on the West Coast specializing in the musical arts, was added to the rear of the library building. Its design complements the older library building with its Mediterranean styling, particularly its circular room with its conical red tile covered roof and arched windows.

The bronze relief of a child reading a book was designed by noted sculptor Merren Gage in 1925. It was originally located in the interior courtyard of the La Jolla Library building.

A branch of the San Diego Public Library system for over fifty years, its facilities were relocated recently to a new building on Draper Street. The Athenaeum then expanded into the vacated and renovated space. For its members and guests, the Athenaeum encourages browsing through its extensive collection of records, compact discs, periodicals, song sheets, musical scores, and hundreds of other musical ephemera. The Athanaeum also plays host to numerous musical events; one of which is a popular noon-time classical music mini-concert.

2. Federal Building/La Jolla Post Office Building 1140 Wall Street Completed in 1934 at a cost of \$84,000 by the Frank L. Stimson Construction Corporation from plans designed by architect Louis A. Simon and structural engineer George O. Van Nerta, this modified Spanish Colonial Revival style reinforced concrete structure reflects the blending of Spanish Colonial imagery with modular 1930s Modernism. The building was expanded and modernized in 1960 under the guidance of La Jollan architect William T. Lumpkins, A.I.A. The post offices efficiency was singled out in 1964 when it received a presidential citation for its "outstanding contribution to a greater economy and improvement in government operation."

While the building is an excellent example of this blending of styles, its primary importance is its housing of one of the remaining mural art works of world-renowned muralist Belle Baranceanu. Her mural on the west interior wall of the main lobby was one of her first commissions in San Diego.

Entitled Scenic View of the Village, its colorful bird's-eye view of La Jolla as seen from the slopes of Mt. Soledad, is surely all that remains of the uncrowded idyllic seaside village as Belle Baranceanu knew it in 1934.

- 3. The Shepherd Building 1111-1123 Wall Street
 - Another A.I.A. award winner, this two-story Spanish Colonial Revival styled commercial building was one of the first projects done in La Jolla by local architect Thomas Shepherd. Completed in 1927, Shepherd operated his architectural office here while leasing out the street-level units. Shepherd is also credited with designing the Marine Room in the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, the co-design of the First National Bank building in La Jolla with Herbert Mann (demolished), the remodelling of the La Valencia Hotel, and over 200 other commercial and residential structures.
- 4. Fire Station No. 13/Police Substation
 7877 Herschel Street
 This 2 1/2-story reinforced concrete Spanish Colonial Revival structure resembles a vernacular Spanish village church with its 16-foot-high vaulted doorway and red tile covered hose tower. Originally designed as a fire engine house by local La Jollan architect Harold Abrams in 1937, the high doorway accommodated two fire engines, while the tower served as a

means for draining hanging fire hoses.

Replacing an earlier fire station built in 1913, the site had been utilized as a fire station for over sixty-three years. The present building was constructed with W.P.A. funds during the Depression. Besides housing the fire station, the building housed a police sub-station (the iron gate to the broom closet sized holding pen is still extant), hospital, first aid station, battery room, and offices of the City Water Department.

After it was no longer used in this capacity in the late 1970s, it was used as the headquarters and vehicle storage facility for the northern area city life guards.

In 1982, after an extensive grass roots campain by local preservationists. the firehouse was declared a local landmark by the City of San Diego (no. 164). Tax credits allowed the building to be rehabilitated and renovated by offsetting restoration costs by lowering property taxes. It was converted into a teen and senior citizen center administered by the local YMCA. The engine room was converted into a main assembly and performance room (the fire poles are still in place) with adjacent kitchen, restrooms, and activities rooms. On the second floor, former fire fighters' dorms were converted into administration offices, hobby, study, and activities rooms.

The "Firehouse" is an excellent example of the successful adaptive use of an historic structure to serve the local community.

5. Villa Waldo/Jenny Wren/Mudgett House
7848 Girard (on Drury Lane)
This is one of the few extant examples of 1890s Victorian vernacular architecture remaining in La Jolla. Recently widowed Olivia McGilvery Mudgett had this small two-story cottage built c.1894 and named it the "Villa Waldo" probably after the county in Maine where she came from.

Olivia and her sister, Mrs. Anson P. Mills, were involved in local real estate speculation and development, buying lots and building rental cottages. She was also active in local community activities, a charter member of the Reading Club in 1894 (which later became the La Jolla Women's Club), the second president of the La Jolla Woman's Club (1896-1901).

Originally located along Girard, the cottage was relocated to the rear of the lot in 1930 when the Quon Mane store was built on its original site. During this time the cottage was remodelled with the addition of dormers and added doorways to accommodate its conversion into an apartment flat.

6. The Arcade Building
7908 Girard Avenue
The Arcade Building was designed by noted La Jollan architect
Herbert Palmer (best known for his own Casa de Las Joyas
residence at 2040 Torrey Pines Road) and completed sometime
between 1926-30. The narrow lot is bisected by a pedestrian
walkway which leads from Girard Avenue to Drury Lane,
providing direct access to the San Diego Electric Railway
Terminus at the end of Fay Street at Prospect Street.

As people passed through, they could look in the windows of the various stores along the arcade. Among these originally were the Manhattan Cafe and the Model Grocery and Meat Market. Because of its many real estate offices, it was often referred to as "Realtors Row" in the late 1970s. Today there is a diverse collection of shops reflecting La Jolla's past village atmosphere.

- 7. La Jolla Art Association Building
 7919 Girard Avenue
 In 1921, when the La Jolla Library was being built, Miss
 Ellen Browning Scripps donated the funds to purchase the land
 adjacent to it where this small brick faced Art Deco
 commercial block was built to house the art gallery of the La
 Jolla Art Association. Notice the 45 sawtooth placement of
 the bricks above the windows and door openings to suggest
 verticality and height in an otherwise confined space.
- 8. The Colonial Hotel/Colonial Inn 910 Prospect Street In 1913 local realtors A. B. Harlan and George Bane contracted local architects Frank Meade and Richard Requa to design a three-floor apartment hotel on this, the former site of the 1888 La Jolla Park Hotel (The old hotel burnt down in 1896; the concrete stairway along the alley formed by Ocean Lane is the only surviving remnant of the hotel). During this time, automobile and steam rail tourism was peaking in La Jolla (the tracks of the Los Angeles and La Jolla Beach Railroad passed in front of the Hotel and the highway from Los Angels was completely paved). A small one-story Colonial Revival office building along Prospect Street gave the hotel its name. An additional a two-story structure was built adjacent to the office.

In 1928 the present Frank W. Stevenson-designed five-story Colonial Revival hotel building was built, pushing the original building to the rear (the small office was moved to La Jolla Boulevard). The original Putnam's Drug Store, which had been in the original and present building for over 45 years (1915-1960), has been replaced with a restaurant.

In 1930 William M. Brooks of Los Angeles purchased the Colonial Hotel as well as the Pacific Shore and the La Jolla Shores motels. Brooks, and his brother Fiske, had recently built the Padre apartment hotel along Park Boulevard near Balboa Park.

- 9. Magee Rental Cottages
 8001-07 Ocean Lane
 This cluster of four clapboard-sided cottages was built by
 local real estate developer Bob Magee c.1924-25 as rental
 properties. The cottages are stepped up the hill along a
 sidewalk leading to Prospect and Girard. This stepped
 layering allows a different perspective on each porch gable,
 roof rafters, and support brackets.
- 10. Winnebago/Miss Jeardeau's House
 958 Coast Boulevard South
 Another fine example of an early 1900s vernacular beach
 cottage, the rectangular-shaped cottage is covered by a
 boxed-eaved gabled roof. Noteworthy is the canted entrance
 on the corner making the best use of its corner lot location.

The Winnegago's best-known resident was Miss Lucile Jeardeau, La Jolla's first policewoman. During the manpower shortages of WWI, Miss Jeardeau, who came to La Jolla in 1895, volunteered to serve a volunteer policewoman in order to curb the "effervescent enthusiasm" of soldiers on leave from nearby Camp Kearny.

Policing the beach area in her brown jersey jacket and skirt, Officer Jeardeau enforced the swimsuit law that restricted the wearing of swimsuits on public streets unless fully covered by a robe. It appears that the most popular pastime then was to see how far you could go without getting caught by Officer Jeardeau.

11. Sea Cliff/Mannix House/After Thought
1021 and 1025 Coast Boulevard
John B. Mannix, a San Diego attorney who had a home near
Third and Elm downtown, had vacationed with his family at the
La Jolla Cove area since the 1890s. He had this 1 1/2-story
combination hip and gable roofed bungalow built in 1902 as a
vacation home for himself and his family. The Sea Cliff, as
it became know, was the gathering place for many picnicking
young folks of the early beach village. To accommodate the
influx of visitors, a small auxiliary cottage was built in
the rear as an "After Thought."

Devout Irish Roman Catholics, Sea Cliff was the site of the first Catholic mass celebrated in La Jolla. Fr. Joseph O'Keefe would come all the way to La Jolla from Mission San Luis Rey near Oceanside on a regular basis to say mass. Out of these visits, the Mary, Star of the Sea parish was born in 1907.

The two cottages are now incorporated as part of the Shell Beach Motel Apartments.

- 12. Marguerite/Old Larimer Home
 1049-51 Coast Boulevard
 These single-story Craftsman style bungalows were built for
 Paul Williams around 1909-12. One of La Jolla's earliest
 land developers, Williams was known to have constructed
 several buildings on Prospect Place, Ravinia, and Coast
 Boulevard South. In 1930 the property was bought by Mary
 Dallas Larimer who remodelled the cottages and added shingles
 over the lap siding.
- 13. Hymann House
 1125 Coast Boulevard
 The building of this early 1900s cottage is accredited to a
 Mr. Berger. Its best known resident was Mrs. Ella Hyman, who
 came to La Jolla in 1904. Mrs. Hymann, along with her sister
 Mrs. Ellen B. Cayot, owned a lot of property in La Jolla and
 other parts of the city.

Regarded as exceptional landlords, they often took their tenants on drives and picnics and usually tried to sell the properties to the renters.

Despite major alterations, this $1 \frac{1}{2}$ —story cottage shows its Craftsman Era heritage in its rock exterior chimney and wide overhanging eaves and decorative gable.

14. Ellen Browning Scripps Park
Dedicated City Park along the seashore from Coast Boulevard
Park and La Jolla Cove
Located on the bluff overlooking the beach and cove, this
broad grassy park has been used as a gathering place for
picnickers and bathers since the 1860s. In 1932 it was
dedicated to the memory of the late Ellen Browning Scripps by
her brother Fred Scripps.

Miss Scripps, the half-sister of Edward W. Scripps (the cantankerous publisher and founder of the United Press Syndicate), was one of the most generous and influential La Jollans. Many parks, museums, and other public, church, and institutional buildings and organizations in La Jolla and San Diego were either founded or supported by Miss Scripps.

Pines and Monterey Cypress grow tortuously along the bluffs. Tall 80-foot Mexican Fan Palms date back to the time when La Jolla was just a peaceful seaside community. They appear to be trying to see over the multi-story condos and hotel apartments behind them along Coast Boulevard.

A path and stairs lead down from the bluffs to the world famous mecca for expert body surfers, Boomer Beach. During the summer, Boomer Beach is a coarse sandy beach, while during the winter, the sand is washed away by storms revealing underlying rocks and boulders.

A series of steps at the northern end of the park lead to the next attraction:

15. The La Jolla Cove

Northeastern end of Ellen Browning Scripps Park

The La Jolla Cove has been a local magnet for tourists and picnickers from San Diego since the 1860s. In 1887 the Pacific Coast Land Bureau subdivided and developed the area around the cove into the La Jolla Park Subdivision. One year later, the La Jolla Park Hotel was built on the ocean side of Prospect Street and Grand (Girard) Avenue, but it did not open until 1893 (it burnt down in 1894, to be replaced by the Colonial Hotel in 1913).

The area's tourist potential was finally realized with the completion of the San Diego, La Jolla & Pacific Beach Railroad from downtown San Diego to the site of the La Jolla Park Hotel in 1894.

During this time a large number of permanent and summer rental cottages and bungalows were built along the bluffs overlooking the cove. A wooden dance pavilion and a "tent city" were built at or near the cove. In 1905 a hot saltwater bathhouse and a bowling alley were built above the cove.

Besides the sheltered cove, numerous tiny pocket beaches provide protected areas which offer clear water ideal for snorkeling and scuba diving. The cove and the adjoining Children's Pool at the end of Jenner Street were all donated to the City of San Diego by Miss Scripps in 1931 to provide residents with a safe place to swim and play.

16. The Neptune/Red Roost 1179 Coast Boulevard

This vernacular beach cottage was built for banker John E. Fishburn in 1894. At the time of its building, Mr. Fishburn was president of the prestigious Cuyamaca Club. He later became president of the Merchant's National Bank of Los Angeles.

Both the Red Roost and the Red Rest have been called some of the best surviving examples of the first generation Pacific Ocean oriented vernacular residential cottages.

Despite this and their placement on the National Register of Historic Places, both cottages, along with several others in the community, have been the focus of heated debates over historic preservation and personal property rights.

Located on prime coastal property, their preservation is seen by some as an infringement on the "highest and best use of the land," while local preservationists see them as the last remaining physical links to La Jolla's historic village.

17. The Red Rest 1187 Coast Boulevard

This single-story wood frame beach cottage was built for George J. Leovy in 1894 for himself and his large family. Leovy, prominent in railroad and business circles, had come to San Diego during the building boom of 1887. For several years the Leovy family vacationed at La Jolla, one year in a tent in what is now Scripps Park. He added a tent house at the rear of his property to house some of his eight children, their nurse, and a cook.

Title to the cottage passed to Florence Sawyer, the benefactor of the Reading Room, La Jolla's first public library. She and her husband John Ransome Bransby spent their honeymoon here.

The Red Roost, and its neighbor the Red Rest, are both on the National Register of Historic Places, progenitor vernacular architectural forms of early California beach cottages which serve as material links to the La Jolla Cove and bluff areas importance as a popular beach and vacation spot since the 1860s.

18. Brockton Villa/La Jolla Pannikin
1235 Coast Boulevard
This vernacular wood frame beach cottage was built in 1894
for Philadelphian doctor Joseph Rodes as a vacation home.
Young Dr. Rodes (he was only 33 at the time) was killed in a
boating accident off the La Jolla shore in 1896. In 1900 the
cottage was sold to Mrs. Olivia Mudgett and Mrs. Eva P.
Chandler, refitted and renamed the Brockton Villa, and used
as a rental cottage.

Mrs. Mudgett resided in the Villa Waldo, built in 1894 on Drury Lane at the rear of &848 Girard Avenue (see no. 5).

One of several cottages built along the bluffs during the turn of the century, it is one of the finest examples of its type; a gem of human-scale craftsmanship surrounded by high-tech multi-level construction.

19. The Green Dragon Colony
1260 Prospect Street
The Green Dragon Colony was an eclectic collection of twelve
beachfront cottages overlooking La Jolla Cove built as an
artists' colony by Anna Held.

Ms Held, who came to San Diego in 1893, was the governess of the U. S. Grant, Jr. family. She, like many others at the time, became enamored by La Jolla's balmy climate and spectacular ocean views and stayed to build summer or year-round beach cottages. In 1894 she purchased the property and erected a fireplace herself, around which a cottage was designed by a young Irving Gill.

A world traveller since leaving her native Germany, Anna Held had made scores of friends among the artists and literati of the world. Cottages were whimsically built around the original to house the many poets, artists, singers, and actors who called on Ms Held.

20. The Cave Curio Shop/La Jolla Caves Curio Shop
1325 Coast Boulevard
Located at the western terminus of the Coast Walk Trail at
Goldfish Point, in 1902 Gustav Shulz, a German-born engineer
and professor of philosophy, dug a tunnel and carved 141
steps out of the sandstone down from the bluffs to provide
access to the Sunny Jim Cave. One of the seven sea caves
below the bluffs, it was named after a British cartoon
character whose profile many people thought they saw in the
opening of the cave. Schulz constructed a gift and curio
shop over the entrance to his tunnel c.1905.

Referred to as the "Mammoth Caves," the sandstone sea caves were formed after 10-million years of coastal deposition of sand uplifting, and 200,000 years of erosion by ocean waves. They were used as bathhouses at low tide around the turn of the century.

Besides providing access to the tidepools, the tunnel reportedly was also used as a means of smuggling illegal aliens, bootleg whiskey during Prohibition, and saboteurs during World War II.

21. Coast Walk Trail/La Jolla Bluffs and Sea Caves
A half-mile dedicated street leading from the La Jolla Cave
and Curio Shop at Goldfish Point (also known as Alligator
Head) along the bluff top above the La Jolla Sea Caves to
Torrey Pines Road

Coast Walk Trail has served as the only practical means of lateral pedestrian access along the bluffs above the La Jolla Sea Caves since the 1860s. Archaeological artifacts found along the trail suggest that the path may have been used since prehistoric times by Native Americans (truly the first La Jollans), where it may have served as a hunting trail.

In April 1894, the San Diego, La Jolla, and Pacific Beach Railroad extended its line from Pacific Beach to the La Jolla Park Hotel on the ocean side of Prospect and Grand. The railroad, known as the "Abalone Limited," attracted visitors to La Jolla Cove, the tidepools, and the sea caves. A pavilion, bath house, and a small "tent city" were erected at the cove for visitors. Tourists could walk up from the cove along the path, know as "Angel's Walk," along the crest of the bluffs overlooking the sea caves, to the "Devil's Slide."

A deep gorge at the foot of Park (then known as Beach) Row, the Devil's Slide led down to the beach below. The railroad built a wooden stairway (burnt in 1962) down the rocky gorge where tourists could climb down to visit the sea caves. The railroad also offered hot air balloon rides off of the bluffs. They could also have themselves lowered in buckets over the side of the cliff in order to view the entrances to the seven sea caves below.

One of the more noteworthy attractions along the trail was a series of dives off of "Dead Man's Leap" given by "Professor" Horace Poole during the 1890s. The railroad sponsored the good professor to leap from a diving board off the 140-foot bluffs into the shallow waters below. On July 4th, 1898, Professor Poole, after dousing himself with inflammable oil, made one of his more spectacular dives off the bluffs flambe, totally engulfed in flames.

Angel's Walk was renamed Coast Walk in 1920 and dedicated as a city street. During the Depression of the 1930s, a series of public work projects sponsored by the La Jolla Chamber of Commerce included the renovated of the trail into an attractive walk. The original foot path was widened. Wooden benches and railings, as well as concrete and cobblestone erosion control check dams, were constructed. A series of wooden bridges were also built over the "Devil's Slide" and along other parts of the trail. In 1963 the trail was renamed as an extension of Coast Boulevard.

In 1990 the entire Coast Walk Trail was designated as a historic landmark by the City of San Diego. The trail acts as a buffer from potential residential encroachment and helps to protect the many sea birds which use the cliff face as rookeries: such as the Common Gull, the endangered California Brown Pelican, and the Black Cormorant—considered sacred by original La Jollans. The view from the trail provides a panoramic view of the ocean, beach, and caves along La Jolla Bay's shoreline, providing a feeling of what La Jolla might have been like before the post—World War II building boom.

22. Carey Crest 1369 Coast Walk

This two-story, hip roofed, shingle-clad early La Jollan beach cottage was built for Professor Joseph and Hettie Carey in 1900. Named "Carey Crest," it was probably reflecting the then popular name for the area--"Cave Crest." A wide veranda overlooks La Jolla Bay below.

Professor Carey came to San Diego in 1890 where he retired from teaching the Classics in Eastern universities. His wife Hettie began a Free Education School for children in San Diego along the waterfront.

When Prof. Carey died in 1905, the cottage was rented out to Dr. William Ritter, the organizer of the newly formed Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The cottage was later owned by dictionary publisher Arthur G. Merriam. Merriam and a subsequent owner made extensive alterations and remodelling. Three small cottages (possibly servant quarters) were added.

23. El Tovar

1381 Coast Highway
Built c.1919-1920, the flat roofs, smooth light colored
stucco walls of this C-shaped two-story home reflects the
early California modern style influenced by Irving Gill's
work in the La Jolla Women's Club and the La Jolla Recreation
Center. Despite being stuccoed over and the inclusion of
additions, the home's cubic elements remain reminding us of
one of Gill's masterpiece the Walter Dodge House in Los
Angeles (1916--demolished).

24. Devil's Slide Bridge
Wooden Trestle Bridge across Devil's Slide Gorge at the Foot
of Park Row
(See Number 21)

Among these were Madame Helena Modjeska, Kate Sessions, novelist Beatrice Harraden, and the U.S. Grant, Jr. family to name a few. Harraden had coined the name, Anna's first cottage, "the Green Dragon," after one of her early stories.

In their original form, these cottages exemplified the simplistic beauty and honesty of early turn of the century California board-and-batten beach cottages. Besides influencing Gill in his early works, the style also had a strong influence on such notable architects as Chicago's Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, the Greene Brothers of Pasadena, and Bernard Maybeck of San Francisco and the Bay area.

Today the original architectural integrity of the Green Dragon Colony is lost in the numerous additions and remodelling done to the cottages and grounds. The structures serve as office and retail space within a converted shopping complex along Prospect Street. The rear of several of the cottages along Coast Boulevard, however, retain some of their original architectural integrity. Anna's hand-made fireplace can still be found within the Chart House Restaurant.

25. The Union Congregational Church 1216 Cave Street

The Union Congregational Church has been a focal point of La Jollan culture and religious life since its inception in 1916. Designed by noted church architect Carleton M. Winslow, who had recently worked as architect—in—residence designing many of the temporary buildings at the 1915 Panama—California Exposition in Balboa Park. Winslow had also been in charge of supervising the construction of the permanent buildings of the Exposition, particularly the California Building, from designs by his partner Bertram G. Goodhue. In 1921, Winslow would go on to collaborate with Goodhue on their design of the Los Angeles Library. Winslow, who would become one of the premier architects of ecclesiastical structures in Southern California, also designed the Mary, Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church in La Jolla in 1937.

The Union Congregational Church's Mission Revival influence can be seen in the side bell tower and intersecting gable roof, as well as its massed and buttressed structural clay tile walls and decorative relief sculpture at the entry. The original overhanging shingled roof has been replaced with a more traditional red terra cotta clay tile roof. The forty-two stained glass windows were all donated. The pipe organ was installed in 1926.

In 1954 a large auditorium (afterward dedicated as the Forshaw Fellowship Hall), dining room, class rooms and other additions were added.

26. Los Apartamentos de Sevilla/La Valencia Hotel
1132 Prospect Street
One of the premier landmarks which helped to define La Jolla
as "the place to be" during the Roaring Twenties for swank
resort living.

Hoteliers Roy B. Wiltsie and MacArthur Gorton commissioned local architect William Templeton Johnson to design a hotel that would epitomize the Spanish villa style of architecture that was all the rage in Southern California during the 1920s. Johnson's reinforced concrete hotel was completed and opened for business on Christmas Day 1926 as "Los Apartamentos de Sevilla."

Two years later, Herbert Mann designed a reinforced concrete rear addition consisting of the present lounge with rooms and a Spanish-style tower above. Renamed the "La Valencia Hotel." a wall was later added around the front patio adding to its villa-like atmosphere.

The La Valencia has served as the temporary home for many newcomers before they purchased homes in the area. It has also been host to prominent business people, movie stars, and during WWII, served as temporary shelter for servicemen and their families.

27. The Wilson-Acton Hotel/the Cabrillo Hotel/La Valencia West 1132 Prospect Street
Ever since the La Jolla Park Hotel burned down in 1896, La Jolla had been without a proper tourist-oriented hotel. In 1908, "Squire" James A. Wilson commissioned architect Irving Gill to designahotel on the site of the former hotel. Wood from the disassembled terminal pavilion of the tracks of the San Diego, La Jolla, and Pacific Beach Railroad near Draper Street was incorporated into the new hotel.

While the hotel was being constructed, it received considerable opposition from local anti-growth residents who resisted the idea of having "high rise things that are infuriating the present generation of old La Jollans."

Despite this, the Cabrillo Hotel, as it was now called, became a success, particularly due to the fact that the railroad tracks ended right in front of the hotel lobby, bringing such esteemed guests as E. S. Babcock (co-developer of the Hotel Del Coronado), President Woodrow Wilson, and Edgar and Clare Boothe Luce.

The hotel was annexed to the neighboring La Valencia Hotel in 1956 and renamed "La Valencia West."

