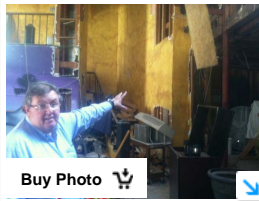


## Renovations underway at Palm Mountain Resort & Spa

Skip Descant, The Desert Sun 10:33 a.m. PST November 11, 2014



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(Photo: Skip Descant/ The Desert Sun )

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Return guests to the [Palm Mountain Resort and Spa](#) in downtown Palm Springs may not recognize the place after the New Year.

By then, hotel officials say a renovation project that is creating a new lobby space, spa and 20 additional guest rooms should be complete.

The new lobby will move into what is now a former restaurant space on the property, which worked as a lease operation until about eight years ago, said Tim Ellis, general manager for the Palm Mountain.

“And they were struggling, and the quality wasn’t there, so I basically just closed it down. And we’ve been sitting on this piece of real estate,” said Ellis, one recent morning in the vast high-ceilinged room with sunlight streaming through skylights and clerestory windows.

The new lobby will also include an area to serve coffee, sandwiches, salads, craft beers and wines.

“It makes a much more grander arrival, and a sense of being you know, a major player hotel,” Ellis said of the improvements.

A banquet space will also be transformed into a new spa and three new guest rooms. A hotel like Palm Mountain, which relies heavily on tour groups and others traveling via motorcoach, does not require a lot of meeting space, said Ellis. And since the Palm Mountain is in the center of downtown, and surrounded by restaurants, a full-service restaurant also goes largely unneeded.

“Everybody walks out for dinner... They’re not going to stay here for dinner. But when they get up in the morning, they like a cup of coffee and something quick to eat,” said Ellis.

“Or if they’re by the pool, they don’t want to get dressed and go out for lunch, so they’ll just get a sandwich or a salad or a pizza or something like that,” he added. “A lot of it



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will be kind of grab and go stuff. Prepackaged. Very easy.”

The old hotel kitchen will be torn down, and the area will become new guests rooms. Overall, the Palm Mountain will grow by 20 rooms. The hotel currently has 120 rooms.

