

 The Fairmont Empress Victoria, British Columbia



Dining Room



Palm Court



Lobby Seating



Bengal Lounge

One of the oldest and most famous hotels in Victoria, British Columbia, the Empress Hotel was in need of rescue when Canadian Pacific Hotels called on Deborah Llyod Forrest in 1988. Restoring the Empress to its original grandeur required extraordinary design and coordination expertise. A fast-track construction schedule, during which the hotel was closed and craftsmen worked around the clock, called for completion of the public areas and the reconfiguration of the 200-room main building, as well as the creation of a new registration lobby, health club and pool in just five months.

Improvements of note include restoration of the Lobby, where afternoon tea is a tradition, the magnificent stained glass-domed Palm Court, and the Fairmont Gold Lounge. The Empress Dining Room's grand fireplace, long ago removed, was replicated, and the Library Lounge was recaptured from its use as retail space. The opulent Edwardian interiors compliment the hotel's original details, giving guests the sense of time travel as they experience the landmark hotel.