

Theme Building Renovation Fact Sheet

- **Project Description**

At the center of Los Angeles International Airport stands the landmark Theme Building. With 135-foot-high parabolic arches, the building provides a 360-degree view of the airport and surrounding area, and houses the Encounter Restaurant that opened January 1997 with a space-age interior and spectacular exterior lighting designed by Walt Disney Imagineering. The Theme Building also houses offices, the City Deli public cafeteria, the airport's commissary that provides food to airport food and beverage concessions, and a public observation deck on the Encounter Restaurant rooftop. The last major renovation of the Theme Building was completed April 1999, with upgrades to the underside of the cross bridge that forms the roof of the Encounter Restaurant and to the bottom of the restaurant with new galvanized steel, stucco and painting. The current renovation project involves the removal and reconstruction of the exterior coating system for the upper and lower arches, seismically upgrading various building elements (including the garden plaza screen wall to mitigate seismic deficiencies), shoring the building's foundation, providing required Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades, and installing a new coating system to restore the exterior of the building to its original condition.

- **Traveler Benefits**

Travelers will find the Theme Building and the glass-encased Encounter Restaurant more readily accessible, seismically safe and aesthetically pleasing. The public observation deck, which was closed after September 11, 2001, is expected to reopen upon completion of the renovation work.

- **Construction Dates**

March 2007 – Fall 2009

- **Cost**

Estimated cost \$12.3 million

- **Contractors**

- o Demolition: CSA Constructors Inc.
- o Engineering and Design: Gin Wong Associates
- o Reconstruction: Tower General Contractors

- **Funding**

LAX Airport Revenue Fund

- **Traveler Impacts**

During construction, the space-aged themed Encounter Restaurant and the ground-level City Deli public cafeteria are open to the public. Offices and the airport's commissary that provides prepared foods to the rest of LAX's concessions also remain open.



(Updated July 2009)