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old gazette building on st. antoine reborn as westin montreal

By [Andy Riga](#) 06-10-2009 [Metropolitan News](#)



Wow – this isn't quite how I remembered the old Gazette building on St. Antoine St. in Old Montreal. Though full of memories, it was shabby and the escalators were constantly breaking down by the time we moved out of in 2003 and moved to Peel and Ste. Catherine.

Here is a shot of the inside of the new 454-room Westin Montreal, which opened today in this newspaper's old headquarters:



The new hotel, a \$90-million project, includes a new 22-story building at the corner of St. Antoine and St. Pierre, where The Gazette's dumpy old newsroom pool car - a white Tempo; or was it a Topaz? – used to be parked.

Prices for a [room at the Westin Montreal tonight](#) range from \$229 to \$309.

A description from the hotel's press release:

"During construction, the architectural firm Geiger-Huot focused on revitalizing, preserving and restoring the premises to maintain the façades of the three buildings that comprise the Saint-Antoine block—the first Montreal Star building located on St-Jacques Street that dates back to 1899; its art deco-style extension designed in 1929 whose heritage windows and 15-foot ceilings have been preserved; as well as The Montreal Gazette building built in the 1950s.



"Visitors enter the hotel through an enclosed grand entrance hall with valet parking service. This entry leads to the lobby or the 160-space underground parking lot. Upon entering the hotel, those familiar with The Gazette building may recognize the space that was preserved on the main floor, as well as the restored Jean-Paul Mousseau painting hanging in the lobby. The inner courtyard, bordered by the three buildings, has also been enhanced. In addition to its hotel accommodations, Le Westin Montréal boasts 76,000 square feet of leasable office space."

I bet the escalators also work.

– Andy Riga