

Fort Harrison Gets a Makeover

The Fort Harrison Hotel opened in 1926 and was Clearwater, Florida's most luxurious hotel at the time. In 1965 the Rolling Stones wrote their hit song "I can't get no Satisfaction" at the hotel. But by the 1970's the hotel had fallen into disrepair and was only a shadow of its once greatness. New owners took over the hotel and began the massive job of restoring the hotel to its previous glory. This was a long and complicated process but was recently finished.

The Problem

The new owners of the Fort Harrison Hotel wanted to make a scaled model of the completed hotel for its grand opening less than a month away. Building an architectural model through traditional methods would take too long so something else needed to be done. That's when the owners decided to consider rapid prototyping since they had a 3D CAD model of the hotel.

The Solution

EMS was contacted to build a 3D prototype model of the hotel using their Z Corp 3D Printers. Z Corp 3D Printers build models layer by layer using an additive process called 3DP. This would allow them to get a model built in a matter of days not weeks.

The only other problem was the CAD data was not very conducive to 3d printing as it was not complete. To fix the model EMS used a few different CAD and STL editing software packages to fix the model and get it ready for 3D printing. In order to 3D print a model it must be "water tight" and every feature must have a thickness so it will 3D print correctly. EMS has been building complex architectural models for many years so fixing the model and printing it on their 3D printer was something they could handle without a problem.

The owners of the hotel also wanted to bronze plate the model to give it a very high class look and to last for a very long time. When the model was finished 3D printing, EMS post processed the model so it could be bronze plated without any problems.

Conclusion

Time was critical and the CAD data was not ready for 3D printing but EMS went to work and fixed the data and 3D printed the model in less than a week's time. The grand opening was a great success and the 3D model was a big hit with the audience.

Visit www.ems-usa.com for more information.



Newly renovated For Harrison Hotel



Z Corp 3D printed model of hotel



Z Corp model with bronze finish applied and mounted on a plaque