

# Bob Shallit: Ready for bed check

## Model rooms make the grade as Marriott project goes up

By Bob Shallit -- Bee Columnist

Published 12:01 am PDT Saturday, July 1, 2006  
Story appeared in Business section, Page D1



The new Marriott hotel project on 15th Street in downtown Sacramento is still a work in progress. Sacramento Bee/Michael A. Jones

**Developer Tony Giannoni's** hotel and condo project at 15th and L is still a construction zone. Concrete has been poured and framing completed for 12 floors. Three more stories are yet to take shape.

But take a construction elevator to the third floor of what will be a 235-room Marriott Residence Inn -- topped by 30 luxury condo units -- and you'll find two rooms completely furnished and seemingly ready for overnight guests.

The reason? **Marriott** requires its developers to complete model units early in the construction process. Then an executive team arrives to check everything, from light fixtures to placement of electrical outlets to the width of pleats on window shades.

If there are problems, the inspectors order changes.

That way, "If you make a mistake, you only do it once, not 235 times," says Giannoni, who also built the nearby Meridian Plaza office building.

The model rooms were inspected last week; only minor problems were noted.

Giannoni says most Residence Inns are cookie-cutter buildings. Customers expect their room-with-kitchenette in Phoenix to look just like the one they stayed at in Denver.

But, because this is one of only three Residence Inns built in a downtown area, the mold is being broken. "People staying downtown expect more upgrades," the developer says.

So this one boasts custom light fixtures, contemporary furniture, hardwood headboards, bright colors, granite kitchen counters and even granite window sills. Plus, there are flat-screen TVs -- which cost Giannoni \$1,000 a pop -- in every bedroom.

Look for the project to open for guests -- and condo buyers -- in February.

**Hoopster scores: Francisco Garcia** has a bright future as a pro hoopster. Also, it seems, as a pitcher.

The second-year Sacramento King has just inked a deal with **Enlace** to promote the company's Spanish-language yellow pages here and in Louisville, Ky., where Garcia went to college. His larger-than-life image already is on an Enlace billboard, near the Jefferson Boulevard exit of I-80 in West Sac. More billboards and other kinds of promotions -- possibly his picture on the cover of next year's local Enlace book -- could follow, says his agent, **Jerome Lewis**.

Garcia also has a promotional contract with a Manteca auto dealership. And talks are under way with the Kings to have Garcia appear in ads for team sponsors.

His appeal to advertisers? Being bilingual and the Kings' only Latino player helps, Lewis says.

Plus, according to Lewis, "he's a handsome guy," he's great with kids and has an inspiring story of overcoming life's obstacles. What's more, he's humble. Says Lewis, "He still recognizes he's been given a special opportunity to be a professional athlete."

**Coming clean:** Add this to UC Davis' list of achievements: the school's Sacramento med center is tops in mops.

Med center leaders just presented a report to a national ergonomics conference on their switch, six years ago, from conventional loop mops to microfiber mops for cleaning hospital floors.

The results, as reported last week: The mops made from microfibers -- nylon materials thinner than human hairs -- pick up much more dirt than the old-style mops.

They also dramatically reduce worker injuries.

That's because they're lighter and "less strenuous" to use, says **Sures Chandra**, the med center's assistant manager for environmental services.

The proof is in statistics presented to the Eastern Ergonomics Conference and Exposition in Boston. In fiscal years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, mop-related injuries caused more than 15 percent of the workers' comp claims filed at UCDCM. So far in the current fiscal year, just 2 percent of claims involve mop use.

**About the writer:**

- Reach Bob Shallit at (916) 321-1049 or [bshallit@sacbee.com](mailto:bshallit@sacbee.com). Back columns: [www.sacbee.com/shallit](http://www.sacbee.com/shallit).



A couple of model units already have all the trimmings so that company inspectors can be sure all the fixtures and their placement meet standards before more rooms are completed. Sacramento Bee/Michael A. Jones

<http://www.sacbee.com/content/business/story/14273788p-15083792c.html>