

## **Saving Iconic Architecture: Rehabilitation of the Lytton Building in Los Angeles**

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### **Abstract:**

The preservation of historically significant properties is among the most important goals of a culture or civilization. It encompasses diverse typologies of material culture including buildings, fine art, structures, monuments, and landscapes. The ideologies of restoring and preserving architecture, allows buildings to endure and stand as representations of the time and environment that they were constructed in. This research project focused on a community's culturally and historically significant building that faced demolition to make way for a new development by leading contemporary architect Frank Gehry. Through a collaboration with Saving Iconic Architecture (SIA) of Los Angeles and under the supervision of Professor Diane Al Shihabi, this project sought to rehabilitate the Lytton Building, located in West Hollywood, California, into an establishment that could benefit the community, contribute to its vitality, and save the building from destruction. It entailed a fully detailed analysis of the building, its history, and the entertainment district that it is situated within through literature review and photographic analysis. Part of the research method was to develop a plan that would allow the historic building to co-exist with the new development and to demonstrate it visually through effective graphic communication. Changing the original use of the building required significant modifications on the interior and compliance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation as set forth by the National Park Service. With the multi-part strategy, different uses for the building were explored, beginning with abstract concepts and evolving into a cohesive plan that reconnected the architectural interior to the entertainment roots of the community in which it stands. The inclusive solution encompassed a contemporary art gallery representing diverse California artists that transitioned to an evening entertainment venue. Furniture, art, materials, hues and lighting were carefully assembled to ensure contemporary appeal and suitability with the mid-century form. SIA selected the project as a viable solution with the power to reverse the developer's decision to demolish. The research is significant because it shows how historical features and references could be retained, while creating dynamic spaces for modern use.