

I. **Why initiate the process of historic nomination of the Century Plaza Hotel?**

1. Built between 1964 and 1966, the Century Plaza Hotel was designed by Minoru **Yamasaki**, a highly significant architect and one of several internationally renowned architects enlisted by architect Welton Becket during his firm's master planning for Century City.
  - a. Yamasaki also designed **New York's World Trade Center** towers and **Century City's twin Century Plaza Towers (1975)**.
  - b. The son of **Japanese immigrants**, the Seattle-born Yamasaki was one of only about a dozen architects ever **featured on the cover of TIME Magazine (in 1963)**.
  - c. The Century Plaza is one of Yamasaki's most cited works, profiled in publications including Arts & Architecture (1964) and Architectural Record (1966).
  - d. One of the requirements of the hotel was that it convey a sense of festive celebration to the arriving guests. "Coming to a hotel should be an event, a fun thing," said Yamasaki.
2. **The Century Plaza Hotel opened in 1966 as the centerpiece of Century City, a "city within a city"** that heralded a bold new approach to urban design.
  - a. The Century Plaza fueled the development of Century City and forged its reputation as a world-class destination.
3. **Site to # of Significant Events:** The Century Plaza opened in 1966 and has served ever since as a premiere hotel for celebrities, politicians, and world dignitaries.
  - a. On August 13, 1969, **the hotel was the site of the first Presidential State Dinner** held outside of the White House. President Nixon hosted the dinner **in honor of the Apollo 11** astronauts on their return from the first manned moon landing. The evening was hailed by the Los Angeles Times as "The Dinner of the Century," "the dinner that welcomed astronauts back to Earth," and "one of history's most significant meals" at "one of the world's finest hotels."
  - b. Once **nicknamed the "West Coast White House,"** the hotel has been a favorite of U.S. presidents, particularly **Ronald Reagan**. Reagan held his two presidential victory parties at the Century Plaza and did much of his work in the hotel's **Presidential Suite** while in California-from **writing State of the Union speeches to meeting with world leaders and national security advisors to celebrating with the 1984 U.S. Olympic team.**
  - c. The hotel's popularity with political leaders has made it a **historic location for political activism**, from Vietnam War protests in the late 1960s to a 2003 CODEPINK demonstration against the war in Iraq, and more.

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