

Urban Renaissance

Baltimore is a city revitalized by its now-famous Inner Harbor. The renaissance began in the 1950s when old warehouses and port facilities that had gone unused for decades were torn down and a master plan for redevelopment was implemented.



Crowds at dusk on the waterfront walkway by Harborplace at Inner Harbor.

With the harbor no longer used for commercial purposes, parks and facilities for recreational and community purposes were created. New office and retail buildings sprang up immediately adjacent to the harbor along with the Baltimore Convention Center, National Aquarium, Maryland Science Center and a number of hotels. In 1980, the Rouse Company, now owned by General Growth Properties, created the Harborplace, a festival marketplace, as the centerpiece of the new Inner Harbor and a trailblazing venture in urban redevelopment, one of the most successful in U.S. history. Moreover, it has earned well-deserved recognition as a worldwide tourist destination, and its impact on the city has spread to nearby commercial and office districts. However, the revitalization wasn't limited to the Inner Harbor; it also spread to the city's commercial center.

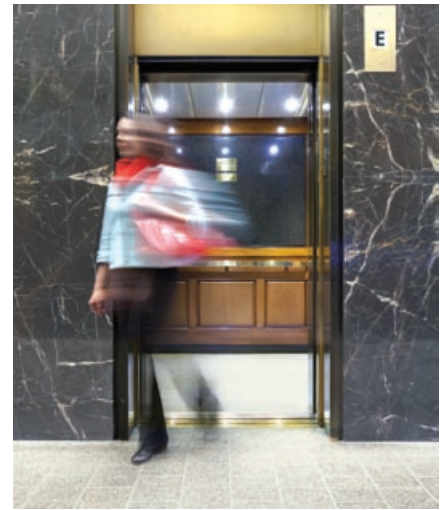


Success breeds success

Hopkins Plaza is located in Baltimore's Commercial District and within walking distance of Inner Harbor. As part of the rebirth of the city, it includes planned public open space in the form of a park-like area that forms the center of the plaza. Owned by ULLICO, Hopkins Plaza recently benefitted from a \$4 million facelift that included removal of portions of an infrequently used pedestrian skywalk, along with repaving, greenscaping and ambient lighting modifications. The plaza is bordered by high-rise buildings that compete for tenants within the Commercial District and within the Inner Harbor as well. Hopkins Plaza itself has become home to free lunchtime concerts, outdoor sculptures and a number of popular eateries. ►

A metal sculpture by artist Setsko Ono greets visitors as they enter 2 Hopkins Plaza.

Photo right: Pierre Gibbons, property manager, GH Property Management.
 Photo middle right: At 2 Hopkins Plaza, PORT devices are integrated into the building security system and require a passcode to call for an elevator car.
 Photo far right: One of the eight Schindler elevators that serve tenants and visitors to 2 Hopkins Plaza.



Baltimore's newest PORT

Built in 1970, 2 Hopkins Plaza is a 22-story office building situated on Hopkins Square in the Commercial District about four blocks from the Inner Harbor. GH Property Management operates the building and recently added Schindler's PORT Technology on all eight of its high-rise elevators, making it the first building in Baltimore to install this innovative elevator system.

According to Pierre Gibbons, property manager, GH Property Management, "With a unique building configuration that required all eight of our aging elevators to not only service all of the floors of the building but also the lower garage levels, performance had become unsatisfactory. We wanted a system that offered the latest in technology and overall efficiency. After looking at several different options, we quickly discovered that PORT Technology was the answer. We love it, and, best of all, so do our tenants, thanks to more efficient elevator operation that results in reduced waiting and travel times."

The PORT Technology brings personalized service to 2 Hopkins Plaza that identifies the individual needs of occupants. It allows building management to easily design and customize applications that can satisfy a wide range of needs, including security, energy efficiency, maintenance and adaptation for people with special requirements. The PORT Technology provides building management with a powerful tool in marketing their property and competing successfully with office buildings located not only within the Commercial District but within the Inner Harbor as well. ■

2 Hopkins Plaza rises 22 stories above Hopkins Square and is located within walking distance of Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

