

Grand Hotel Pavilion



The open-air pool pavilion is somewhat elevated to provide views over the pool to Mobile Bay. It takes design cues from the historic Grand Hotel.

By Philip Morris



The general manager of the Marriott Grand Hotel, David Clark, is not the only one who loves the pavilion designed by Fairhope-based Walcott Adams Verneuille Architects as part of the hotel's grand pool replacement opened in May 2002. "That whole area has been wildly successful," he says. "The building draws you from a distance, and once you get in there, it's casual and relaxing. You can look down on the pool and out to the bay. We've now surrounded it with misters that can drop the temperature by 10 degrees in the heat of the summer."

Built as part of a new 12,000-square-foot pool designed by Wood + Partners Inc., a landscape architecture firm based on Hilton Head Island that has done a number of Marriott resort pools there, the pavilion clearly evokes the character of the historic Point Clear hotel. Its gabled roof has exposed trusses and a large cupola with clerestory windows bringing indirect natural light into the space. Exposed rafter tails and shaped wood columns evoke the original period, as does the combination of brown trim and lighter stained paneling.

Along with the pavilion, Walcott Adams Verneuille developed architectural guidelines for preservation and future projects at the Grand Hotel.

Photos courtesy of Walcott Adams Verneuille Architects



Exposed trusses and wood trim are painted brown with paneled surfaces in a natural cypress stain. The clerestoried cupola draws in natural light.



Chamfered wood columns raised on brick piers repeat an architectural detail found on many Point Clear porches.



A detail shows board-and-batten siding, shaped rafter tails and a nautical light fixture.