

Westfield[®]

San Francisco Centre

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New Home for Historic Dome at Westfield San Francisco Centre

San Francisco, Calif., May 9, 2005 – Monday was moving day for the elegant 102-foot-wide historic dome of San Francisco's old Emporium Building.

Nearly a year after it was elevated 60 feet as part of the expansion of the Westfield San Francisco Centre, the 500,000 pound steel and glass dome was lowered two feet to its permanent resting place atop the steel structure of the new building. The dome is the signature feature of the 1.5 million square-foot, \$420 million retail, entertainment and office development under construction by The Westfield Group and Forest City Enterprises scheduled to open in fall 2006.

"The dome will be the breathtaking centerpiece of a grand public space," said Steve Eimer, vice president of development for Westfield, which also serves as the general contractor for the project.

Restoration of the dome will begin this summer and last about a year. Since May 2004, a 120-foot high temporary steel-beamed tower has supported the dome while the new Centre was constructed around it. Four large hydraulic jacks were used to lower the dome into place. Crews from Sheedy Drayage Company, the firm that teamed up with Swinerton Builders to develop the raising and lowering systems, then welded it to eight steel-tube support columns. The dome now sits 168 feet above Market and Mission Streets between 4th and 5th Streets. It will be the focal point of a two hundred foot-long and 65 foot-wide atrium.

"The dome's elevated position restores its original design intent in which natural light pours through its crown and lunette windows," said Brian Jones, president of Forest City Development, California, Inc. "It will be the signature feature of a dramatic destination."

The new Westfield San Francisco Centre will be home to the West Coast flagship of Bloomingdale's and the second largest Nordstrom in the country. In addition, the combined Centre will feature a mix of 170 specialty stores and exclusive boutiques, fine dining, an international gourmet marketplace called "The Food Emporium," first-class office space and a nine-screen state-of-the-art Century Theatres and CinéArts. During construction, the existing Westfield San Francisco Centre and Nordstrom remain open.

The original Emporium dome was designed by noted San Francisco architect Albert Pissis. Built in the 1890s, it was the signature feature of what was called "The Grandest Mercantile Building in the World." The dome was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, but rebuilt by 1908. In its early days, The Emporium became one of San Francisco's most popular destinations with nightly concerts at the bandstand and restaurant under the dome. In the 1920s, an addition to the Emporium covered up the lunette windows around the lower part of the dome.

(more)

About The Westfield Group and Forest City Enterprises

The Westfield Group is an internally managed, vertically integrated, shopping centre group undertaking ownership, development, design, construction, funds/asset management, property management, leasing and marketing activities and employing in excess of 4,000 staff worldwide. Westfield has investment interests in 126 shopping centres in four countries (US, Australia, New Zealand and UK), with a total value in excess of a \$39.5 billion and is the largest retail property group in the world by equity market capitalization.

Forest City Enterprises, Inc. is a \$7.2 billion, NYSE-listed real estate company headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. The Company is principally engaged in the ownership, development, acquisition and management of commercial and residential real estate throughout the United States. The Company's portfolio includes interests in retail centers, apartment communities, office buildings and hotels in 21 states and the District of Columbia.

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Note to Editors/Reporters: "Westfield San Francisco Centre" is the correct way to identify the shopping center.

Photo Attachments

- Emporium Dome Under Construction in 1908. "Construction crews completed the dome in 1908."
- Dome Elevated in April, 2004. "The 102-foot wide dome was elevated 60 feet in 2004."
- Dome Lowered to New Home, May, 2005. "Crews lowered the steel and glass dome to its new home atop the steel structure of the new Westfield San Francisco Centre."
- Artists Rendering of Restored Dome. "The restored dome is the signature feature of the expanded Westfield San Francisco Centre opening in Fall 2006."