



The San Francisco Armory

## The Shape of Things To Come

# Pornography Company Acquires Half City Block for Filming Bondage Videos to Air on Internet

The S.F. Armory sat empty for thirty years, apparently waiting for this moment.

On December 29th, Kink.com, which offers some of the grislier pornographic fare available for purchase on the internet, acquired the historic structure in the Mission District for \$14.5 million.

According to spokeswoman Sarah Hill, the company was drawn to the medieval aspect of the location. The building is modeled after a Moorish castle, which makes it ideal for filming dungeon scenes and other backdrops for torture.

Kink.com is a purveyor of BDSM videos. The acronym stands for bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, and sado-masochism. The company's current studio is located at 942 Mission Street.

The S.F. Armory was built in 1914 as a place for national

guardsmen to muster when called up during an emergency to quell labor riots. The most famous of these uprisings occurred in 1934, when a barricade was set up alongside the armory and police officers retreated inside for safety. The building was added to the register of national historic places in America in 1978.

A description of the inte-

rior can be found on the website sfarmory.com, which notes, "It is full of period detail, including cavernous dungeon-like basements, stone staircases, sweeping corridors, and a gigantic drill court spanning almost an acre.

*S.F. Examiner* columnist Ken Garcia toured the facility recently with Kink C.E.O. Peter Acworth. Garcia elaborated on "its castle-like qualities – which include an underground stream, basement-level stables, gothic corners and prison-style windows."

Reporting the sale for local NBC affiliate *Channel 11*, reporter Jean Elle said some area residents expressed dismay about the new enterprise, although one young man lauded the venture as being "in the spirit of the city."

Kink spokeswoman Hill said the company will try to smooth over ruffled feathers in the neighborhood by offering space to local nonprofits for fundraisers.

Because of the area's zoning, Kink will not have to apply for any permits, and the city is powerless to stop the sale, regardless of any neighborhood opposition.

In the television report, spokeswoman Hill added, as if to allay any concerns, "The community will never have to know what happens inside these walls."

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