Marriott Syracuse Downtown retains Hotel Syracuse’s 1920s glamour

By Jacob Pucci
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After more than a year of work and 12 years of waiting, the Hotel Syracuse is back.

While the name of the hotel will become Marriott Syracuse Downtown on July 4, hotel developer Ed Riley promises that the new hotel will capture its original 1924 charm.

The Persian Terrace, named after a mural that once graced one side of the room, has been restored to its 1920s configuration. The old carpet was replaced with oak flooring that matches the original floor. The intricate ceiling medallions, as well as the mermaid ceiling murals uncovered while removing acoustic tiling, were restored.

The chandeliers in the Persian Terrace are not original, but were designed like those from the 1920s and 1930s. All the other chandeliers in the hotel are original, Riley said.

In its heyday, the Persian Terrace was the top place to dance and dine.

“It was the nightly happening spot,” Riley said.

While the wall mural in the Persian Terrace was unable to be restored, the 40-foot mural behind the check-in desk in the lobby will return to its past glory. The mural, painted by Carl Roters, celebrates the first 100 years of Syracuse’s history.

The painting had been hidden in the 1980s and damaged by tobacco smoke and coal dust. It took about one and a half months to restore the mural to the way it was when Roters

THE DETAILS

Address: 100 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse.

Rates: $189 to $209 nightly, not including taxes and fees. Cheaper rates available to Marriott Rewards members. Call (844) 762-8797 or visit marriottsyracuse-downtown.com to make a reservation.

Built: 1924

Tour: The Hotel Syracuse will be one of 12 stops on the Downtown Living Tour, organized by the Downtown Committee of Syracuse. The tour is from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. Advance tickets are $12 and can be purchased online at downtownsyracuse.com/downtownlivingtour.

Houses wanted: If you have a nominee for House of the Week, email home@syracuse.com and tell us what is special about the house for sale and include a digital photo or two. Leave a phone number so we can call you.

We’re looking for houses in all price ranges.

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To see a House of the Week photo gallery, scan this image on your smartphone or tablet or go to syracuse.com/homes.
Entrance moved to original spot

Located off the lobby, the hotel’s ceiling, complete with 40 different sizes of coffers, was repainted to imitate dark wood, rather than the all-white color scheme once used. Many of the large coffers will be decorated with one of four different painted designs.

For many years, the main entrance to the hotel was on the 10th Floor, home to the Empire Room and the historic Grand Ballroom. When the Hotel Syracuse reopens, the main entrance will return to its original spot on East Onondaga Street.

Amenities include a double vanity in the bathroom, wood flooring, chandeliers and an open metal cell design. The large, blue sky with white wavy clouds. Redone faucets, new wood flooring, sash and pillars painted to resemble tan marble set off the new 5,952-square-foot ballroom. The Empire Room, about half the size of the Grand Ballroom, can fit about 100 people.

While it might be the most recognizable event space in the hotel, the Grand Ballroom, located off the lobby. The 1980s theme in the old Imperial Ballroom has been replaced with neutral carpeting and an open metal ceiling.

Guest rooms have the original wood “coffer” doors, that opens and closes a lower, two-story space for guests to hang dirty clothes for the porter to pick up. The solid mahogany doors have another unusual feature.

A button on the door that opens and closes a lower, two-story space for guests to hang dirty clothes for the porter to pick up.

The rooms are decorated with historic images of the Hotel Syracuse and the city of Syracuse and include all the fortes and amenities typically found in a Marriott hotel.

Finger Lakes Ballroom, is set up for an event. (Behd/Syracuse / New Media Development)

Some of the hotel’s ceilings were painted white in the 1980s, Riley said. The Grand Ballroom was no exception. The arched ceiling will now be painted a rich, blue sky with white wavy clouds.

House of the Week

The Finger Lakes Ballroom is set up for an event. (Behd/Syracuse / New Media Development)

The rooms are decorated with historic images. (Behd/Syracuse / New Media Development)