

HOUSE OF THE WEEK



Marriott Syracuse Downtown retains Hotel Syracuse's 1920s glamour

By Jacob Pucci
jpucci@syracuse.com

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

Almost ready

The Persian Terrace room was restored to return it to the way it looked in 1924.



Work continues on a \$70 million renovation of the former Hotel Syracuse, which is scheduled to reopen in July as the Marriott Syracuse Downtown.

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) 782-9797 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/downtown-living-tour.

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.

PHOTOS BY
RICK MORIARTY
/ RMORIARTY@
SYRACUSE.COM



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



The grand lobby of the hotel also is being restored to the way it looked when the Hotel Syracuse opened in 1924.

ENTRANCE, H-2

Advertisement

HOUSE OF THE WEEK



The Finger Lakes Ballroom is set up for an event. (Hotel Syracuse / Brine Wells Development)

Entrance moved to original spot

HOTEL, FROM H-1

... painted the mural in 1949. The lobby'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 South Warren Street. But when the Hotel Syracuse reopens, the main entrance will return to its original spot on East Onondaga Street.

Ride in one of the four brand-new elevators to the 10th floor, home to the Empire Room and the historic Grand Ballroom.

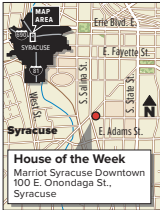
Many of the hotel's ceilings were painted white in the 1980s, Riley said. The Grand Ballroom was no exception. The arched ceiling will now return to its original look — a rich, blue sky with white wispy clouds.

Redone balconies, new wood flooring, chandeliers and pillars painted to resemble tan marble round out 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 is not the largest. The 7,956-square-foot old Imperial Ballroom, now named the Finger Lakes Ballroom, is



Repairs to the exterior are part of the renovation. (Rick Moriarty / moriarty@syracuse.com)



located off the lobby. The 1980s theme in the old Imperial Ballroom has been replaced with neutral carpeting and an open metal cell ceiling.

Guest rooms have the original wooden "coffin" doors, which have a unique open interior 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 louver to let in cool air from the hallway.

It's the same kind of craftsmanship that can be found in each of the 261 guest rooms. All the wood fixtures, wardrobes and doors were made by Stickley Furniture. The bathrooms have a double vanity, large mirror and glass shower stall.

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

"It's a very high-level room," Riley said, adding that he expects an additional 60 guest rooms to be built in the future.

Guests will have their first chance to stay in the hotel on June 4 during the "Forever Hotel Syracuse" gala, a fundraiser for the Onondaga Historical Association.

Tickets for the event range from \$150 to \$300. Room reservations, which are not included in the ticket price, will cost \$225, which includes all taxes and fees.

The hotel will have three restaurants, plus the speakeasy-style lobby bar that Riley ensures will serve more than high tea, as it did when the hotel opened during Prohibition.

A Cafe Kukul on the street level will have both an inside entrance and outside entrance along South Warren Street.

Eleven Waters, a casual bistro with a focus on Finger Lakes wines, will be open for the grand opening.

Shaghnessy's, an Irish pub, will open on Aug. 1 on the corner of South Warren and Harrison streets.

Legacy Steakhouse, located on the 11th floor, will open in October.

Contact Jacob Pucci at jpucci@syracuse.com and follow him on Twitter at [@jacobpucci](https://twitter.com/jacobpucci).



This guest room has a double vanity in the bathroom. (Ellen M. Blalock / eblalock@syracuse.com)



Another guest room. (Ellen M. Blalock / eblalock@syracuse.com)



The rooms are decorated with historic images. (Ellen M. Blalock / eblalock@syracuse.com)