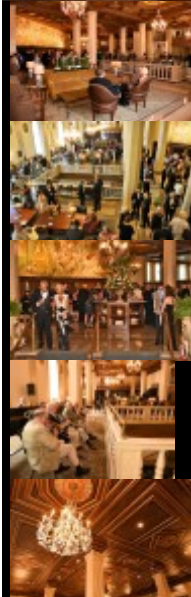


More than 1,000 celebrate Hotel Syracuse's revival





"It's the history that's been made inside the building," he said. "The weddings, the parties, the bar mitzvahs, the memories, the emotional attachment that this community has to this building and what it's meant to their lives and their own history over the past 92 years is what makes this building the most historic. It's not just the building itself. It's what transpired within these walls."

The association provided Riley with many historical photographs to assist him in restoring the building's common areas — including its majestic lobby, [Grand Ballroom](#) with its skyscape ceiling and Persian Terrace ballroom — to their 1924 appearance. But it also gave him something perhaps even more important to the restoration — the hotel's original architectural drawings.

"That's where you find out what's behind all the walls," said Tripoli. "They knew right where to go for things. It made it so much easier for the contractor."

Riley, a Camillus resident who has spent his career developing hotels around the country, bought the Hotel Syracuse in 2014 and soon after launched a renovation that will result in its reopening with 261 rooms under the Marriott flag. He said the the historical association's assistance made his job much easier.

"It would have been much more difficult to do it without them," he said. "In some cases, we would have had to guess."

The association surprised Riley at the event by presenting him with a painting of him and his wife, Janet, in 1920s garb in front of the hotel.

Among those attending the event was [Aminy Audi](#), chairwoman and CEO of furniture maker L. & J.G. Stickley Inc., which has had a 92-year relationship with the Hotel Syracuse.

Stickley made furniture for the hotel for its 1924 opening and again for a renovation done soon after Audi and her husband, the late Alfred Audi, bought the furniture maker in 1974. And it restored the hotel's

original ["coffin" guest room doors](#) and made much of the furniture that now fills its new rooms and restored historical suites.

"It's something we all feel proud to be a part of," said Audi. "Ed Riley has done a great job."

[Grand Hotel Syracuse soirée](#) More than 1,000 celebrated the Hotel Syracuse's past and its recent revival with a giant party. Many people dressed as if it was the hotel's first opening 92 years ago, as flappers Gatsbys, Chaplins and even an Orphan Annie invited guests to the awe-inspiring hotel.

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