A great day

The CNY Chapter of the AIA held a Continuing Education event at the 1924 Hotel Syracuse restoration project, hosted by owner & developer Ed Riley and the project Architectural Team.

50+ AIA members attend

The Chapter Membership was treated to the most well organized and well attended Continuing Education Event in Chapter history on a cold day in late January 2016. A chance to visit and learn from one of Central New York’s most significant Architectural renovation projects in the city’s history. This “Grand Old Lady” was built in 1924, in a style and fashion to compete with and offer European elegance here in the “blue collar” former Erie Canal town, now a growing modern Rail Road town, and needing new upscale accommodations for its residents and visitors.

Restoration restores original spaces

The renovation phase of the long vacant, cold and damp structure began in February 2015, and after 12 months of discovery, triage to “stop the damage,” inspirational recovery of hidden murals, and small guest room conversions to spacious luxury suites. But the best experience of the tour was to see and feel the original spaces of the 1924 Hotel returned to their original simplicity and grandness. These main floor grand spaces, located on the European “prima etage” level above the street, are being opened.
back to a few large rooms, with original window openings, column capitols, detailed plaster ceilings & chandeliers. The restoration of the damaged plaster, selection of original paint colors for ceiling trim, and the photographic reproduction and print to canvas for ceiling murals are unique to this restoration project.

**Original “100 Years of Syracuse” mural being restored**

At center stage in the mail Lobby, above the original registration desk, the restoration of the 1949 mural, “The First 100 Years” depicting historic scenes from the foundation of Syracuse. The original painting by Carl Roters, SU Professor of Art and renowned national muralist, was being restored on our renovation tour by Marek Mularski.
January 21, 2016

Another example of today’s restoration technology is being used in the ceiling coffers of the mail lobby hall. Many of the original 1924 ceiling decorative paintings, most being damaged, were found above the removed hung ceilings used to “modernize” the Hotel over the years. Some of these are being restored by hand. Others, like these in the coffers, were photographed, then printed on canvas, to be installed in the many repetitive coffers of the grand and expansive ceiling detail.

Robert Haley

The tour was more than an informative “busman’s holiday” for Chapter Architects and their guests. It was a lesson in bringing the creations of Architects & times past to future generations.

A Grand Entry

There is a grand feeling that goes with entering a building like the Hotel Syracuse. Architects use this experiential sequence to heighten the expectations and set the stage for “discovery & surprise.”

Generations have climbed these stairs for weddings, dances, New Year’s Eve, or to meet family, friends, even Presidential candidates and Rock Stars.

Thanks to this unique convergence of talents and purpose, this community Architectural treasure is being authentically restored, to be the place for more great memories to come. Thank you,

And thank you Sarah Barnard, for organizing this AIA CEU event.

Vice Chair, Syracuse Landmark Preservation Board