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Reviving a Storied Past

A major overhaul of New York's legendary Mansfield Hotel restores its history.

BY LEN VERMILLION

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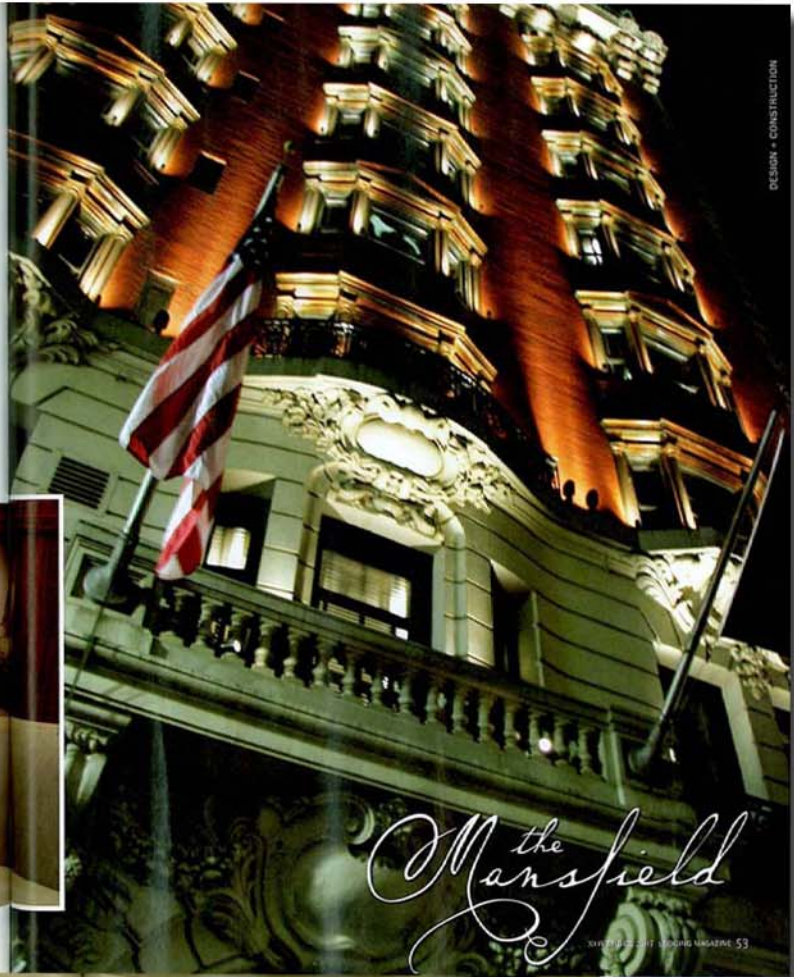
he Beaux-Arts style of the Mansfield Hotel is a symbol of old New York. Situated in a historical part of midtown Manhattan, the property, which was once an orphanage for minority children in the middle of the

19th century, became a storied hotel at the turn of the 20th century. A celebrated architect of the era, James Renwick Jr. (whose architectural works include St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Smithsonian Institution), designed the hotel and was influenced by neoclassical Roman and Greek architecture. Originally designed as a hostelry for well-heeled bachelors, the hotel hosted such notables as John Butler Yeats, father of the poet William Butler Yeats, and the wealthy and mysterious Max von Gerlach,



(OPPOSITE PAGE) THE MANSFIELD HOTEL'S EXTERIOR FACADE

(RIGHT) THE NEW CLUB ROOM, FEATURING RENWICK'S BEAUX-ARTS STYLE



Mansfield

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F. Scott Fitzgerald's inspiration for Jay Gatsby in the *The Great Gatsby*.

This fall, the Mansfield Hotel reopened its doors after being reinvented as New York's newest historical boutique hotel. The hotel's operator, Willow Hotels, led by Brad M. Reiss and John Yoon, has brought back the stylish sophistication that once persevered among the city's hotels. In addition to reviving the elegance and romance of the early 1900s, the redesign infuses the site with 21st-century style and offerings. The renovation included in the spring, and the design team of Stephen B. Jacobs and Andi Pepper has carefully restored many of Renwick's signature elements, including the high ceilings of the lobby and the red mahogany banisters. New elements include a state-of-the-art fitness center and the expanded M Bar, which has been named by at least one publication as one of New York's top 100 lounges.

These photos present a look at some of the new and newly restored and new elements of the Mansfield Hotel.

(RIGHT) THE JEWELRY APARTMENT IS ACCENTED BY BROWN-GRANED HONEYWOOD FLOORING.

(OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP) THE EXPANDED M BAR LOUNGE

(OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM) THE RENOVATION PLACED THE HOTEL'S ORIGINAL STYLING WITH MODERN AMENITIES, SUCH AS THE GYMNASIUM.

