



# INTERIOR RENOVATION

## OWNER AND COLLECTOR

Louis H. Pfohl, the former owner and late grandfather of the current owners, had an eclectic sense of style. According to family, and confirmed by the design team, he collected what he liked and found ingenious ways to give new life to historic finds.

Louis and his descendants were also respectful of the past, which was a good thing when it came to the renovation work. As it turned out, there was a treasure trove of artifacts that had been stored at the hotel – from original wrought iron tiles to Victorian-era mirrors to historic art prints – with many of those items repurposed in the new design. For example, the massive mirror that now hangs on the second floor landing of the lobby staircase was originally used as a door in a Victorian mansion. Pen and ink drawings by European artists displayed in the hotel's common areas were in such fragile condition it took museum-quality framing to bring them back.

While some original elements of the hotel had been taken apart, enough remained to remanufacture and replicate many of them.

## INTERIOR DESIGN GEMS

- The magnificent lobby and grand staircase make for a dramatic entry to the 2nd floor Atrium. The atmosphere harkens back to the days when the hotel lobby was the place to see and be seen for businessmen and high society. This is a favorite location for wedding and group photography.
  - Upon removal of the lobby carpet, the interior design team was delighted to discover one-inch-thick marble tiles. While a significant investment, the design team removed the adhesive and painstakingly restored the tiles.
  - Walls were removed on the second floor, opening it to the lobby below, as it was in the original design.
  - The staircase was made even grander.
  - Intimate furniture groupings for conversation and impromptu meetings fill the volume and give the space a cozy, home-away-from-away feel.
- Original mosaic tiles were uncovered and provided inspiration for the warm, rich color palette of cream, black and terra cotta red found in the sumptuous fabrics, furniture and wall coverings.
- In the ballroom, decorative plaster crown moldings and a 20-foot-high coffered ceiling that had been covered were uncovered and restored.
- In the restaurant, the stained glass panel doors leading to the private dining area are Tiffany glass from the early 1900s. The four backlit glass panels at the restaurant entrance featuring four knights were rescued from a 5th Avenue home in New York City.
- Elaborate cornices with a center urn detail that originally resided in the Harbor Gallery Room above the windows (as noted on the original blueprints) now serve as accent pieces topping large upholstered wall panels in the Riverboat Lounge.
- Historic city scenes of Dubuque and an assortment of family photos were chosen for the guest suites.

