

A Star is Reborn

Amidst Critical Acclaim, The New York Palace Hotel Revives The Villard Mansion

By Alexis Suttle

When Le Cirque 2000 announced plans to move from its premier space in The New York Palace Hotel in January 2005, speculation was rampant as to how the departure of this famous tenant would affect the world-renowned hotel. The space in question, the south wing of the 1882 Villard Mansion, is widely considered to be the crown jewel of the 897-room Palace that towers above the corner of 50th and Madison Avenue.

One year later, all questions have been answered with the arrival of the critically acclaimed Gilt restaurant and bar, and the revitalization of historic Villard Mansion social venues such as L'Orangerie and The Library.

Hailed by *New York* magazine as a "Gilty Pleasure," Gilt has succeeded in recapturing the excitement of New York's Gilded

Age with a revolutionary design concept that has *Time Out New York* raving that Gilt has "the ambience of a lunar lander."

Just up the grand marble stairway from Gilt, L'Orangerie and The Library strictly adhere to the essence of the late 19th century with a classically preserved environment that has welcomed such divergent events as prizefighter press conferences and golden anniversary celebrations. Just down the hall from Gilt, The Madison Room offers unsurpassed views of St. Patrick's Cathedral from a classic drawing room setting.

For 2006, the hotel is planning a major renovation that will add seven new event rooms of recreated Gilded Age glory to the upper floors of The Villard Mansion.

"As the former residence of Pennsylvania railroad magnate

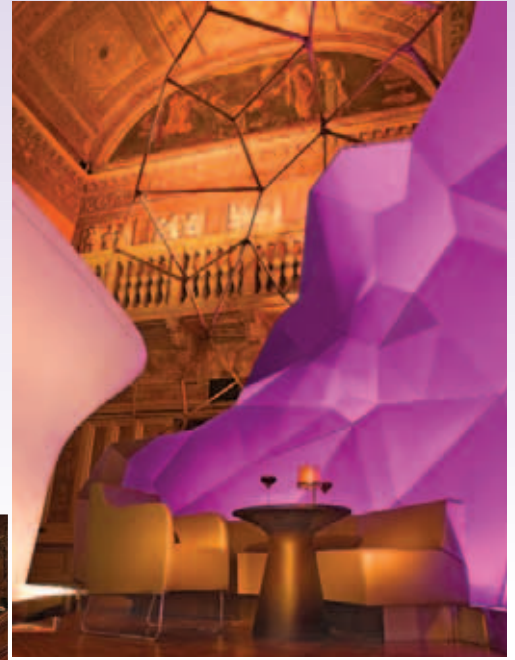


The Madison Room

Henry Villard, the mansion is highly unique in that it has been designated as both an exterior and interior landmark,” said Jeffrey Selden, director of catering for The New York Palace Hotel. “Having these historical rooms back under our wing dramatically increases our amount of event space from 20,000 square feet to more than 30,000. Now that we can offer guests access to the mansion that overlooks it, our courtyard on Madison Avenue is even more of a draw to people planning weddings and other lavish affairs.”

Within the modern 55-story tower that was seamlessly blended into the mansion in 1980, the Palace Mezzanine level offers both The Villard Ballroom and The Reid Salon, which together can accommodate up to 800 people. Atop the tower are four, art-deco-inspired triplex suites – averaging 5,000 square feet – that offer panoramic views of the city from their spacious terraces. The triplex suites are ideal for private visits, opulent parties, or both. With such stunning accommodations, it is no wonder that *Inside Weddings* magazine has named The New York Palace as “the most romantic hotel in New York.” ●

Gilt Bar



Gilt Restaurant

The Library

