

RESTAURANT / HOTEL DESIGN INTERNATIONAL



THE ALGONQUIN ■ New York City

RETURN TO GRACE

A landmark hotel
recaptures its
legendary style

Since 1902, when its doors first opened, The Algonquin hotel has been home to some of the world's best known literary and theatrical luminaries. Sinclair Lewis once offered to buy the Manhattan hotel, while both Orson Welles and Douglas Fairbanks honeymooned there. In the '20s, the legendary *New Yorker* Round Table of writers and editors lunched frequently in The Algonquin's Rose Room.

The hotel had fallen into disrepair by 1987, when it was given landmark status by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. The following year, the Aoki Corporation purchased the property and enlisted John Ciardullo Associates architects (New York City) to restore its interiors and preserve its Beaux Arts architecture. "We wanted to reestablish the hotel's reputation and tradition through faithful restoration of architectural details and a reinterpretation of its turn-of-the-century interiors," says principal John Ciardullo. Interiors were refurbished in collaboration with Laura Gottwald & Associates, Inc., a local interior design firm. Gaspar Pacheco, the interior design coordinator for Aoki Corporation, oversaw the project and designed guestrooms.

The first phase of the project was a renova-

The Algonquin lobby displays its rediscovered Beaux Arts pedigree; restored moldings, cornices, and capitals provide a canopy for a mix of refurbished antiques and new pieces. *Paneling restoration: Capital Cabinet Corp. Antique furniture restoration: Paul Fuhrman. Additional antique furniture: Paul Fuhrman, Leonard Tompkinson Antiques. Upholstery: Clarence House, Brunschwig & Fils, Coutan & Tout, Fonhill, Lee Joja. Carpet: Scalamandre. Draperies: Fabricated by Monte Coleman with Clarence House fabric. Lighting restoration: Emeraldite. Lamps: Oriental Lampshade Co. Custom folding screens: David Flatt Cabinetry.*