



The newly refurbished lobby of the Loews Regency Hotel in Manhattan.

A Kravet viscose blend for the lobby sofas.



A silk blend used for the lobby pillows.



The main entrance.



A Deco-inspired sconce.



A pouf by Azadeh Shladovsky for the lobby.

## OVERNIGHT SENSATION

One of Manhattan's grand hotels undergoes a yearlong refurbishment that enhances its classic glamour even as it reaches out to a new generation. **BY INGRID ABRAMOVITCH**



New lobby chandeliers.

In 1963, brothers Preston Robert ("Bob") and Laurence ("Larry") Tisch hired a design dream team of the era—architect Emery Roth and decorator Ellen L. McCluskey, who had worked on the Waldorf and the Plaza—to create a new hotel on New York's Park Avenue. The Loews Regency quickly became a glittering jewel in the crown of the Tisch empire, a New York classic with an ideal Upper East Side location, a marbled lobby, and a restaurant (home of the original "power breakfast") that became a virtual clubhouse for the city's political and financial movers and shakers.

That tradition started in the mid-1970s, when Bob Tisch and moguls Lew Rudin and Felix Rohatyn began meeting for breakfast strategy sessions in an effort to save New York City, which was then on the brink of bankruptcy. Eventually, the Regency became the day-break destination of Gotham's A-list set: Larry King, Katie Couric, the

Reverend Al Sharpton, mayors from David Dinkins to Michael Bloomberg, and many others loved to congregate there over eggs and waffles.

All along, there was also a wide-eyed teenager in residence: Jonathan M. Tisch, whose parents, Bob and Joan Tisch, kept an apartment in the hotel that his mother maintains to this day. "I am the male Eloise," says Jonathan, who grew up to become chairman of Loews Hotels and Resorts, cochairman of the family's \$20 billion Loews Corporation, and co-owner of the New York Giants. "The Regency was a wonderful home for me. Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton would stay there, as well as Princess Grace and Prince Rainier. Presidents would come through."

As the hotel's golden anniversary approached, he realized that the Regency was due for an update. What began as a plan to redecorate just the guest rooms and suites evolved into a top-to-bottom, \$100 million renovation. The hotel was shut down for a full year—a decision that wasn't taken lightly, particularly when Tisch had to ask his own mother to temporarily >



The breakfast room in 2005.



Hand-cast lobby counters.



A linen blend used for the lobby pillows.