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# First look: Hotel Allegro's \$15 million renovation



By ALLY MAROTTI |

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Hotel Allegro

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The lobby at Hotel Allegro, 171 W. Randolph St.

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Hotel Allegro Chicago put the cherry on top of its six-month, \$15 million renovation today with the installation of a custom-made piece of art from a local artist. Other renovations included the addition of a bar off the lobby and a

revamp of guest rooms and other public spaces.

The hotel, at 171 W. Randolph St., was open during renovations, which officially will be completed in June. The only room still under construction is a 1,250-square-foot event space on the first floor that housed Encore restaurant, which closed in November.



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The hotel opened in 1926, and the renovations sought to bring back some of its roots among the theater district, hotel manager Mary Perino-Fleming said.

Chicago-based Simeone Deary Design Group handled the redesign. Chicago-based GREC Architects was the executive architect for interiors and the design architect for the exterior renovations of the Allegro. The entrance off Randolph Street opens into a staircase that leads up to the lobby. The carpet is new, redesigned to fit into the art deco theme, and the railings, which are original to the hotel, have been refurbished.





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The hotel considered this piece of art, which was hung today, the finishing touch on its renovation. The 10-foot-by-6-foot “Lady Lucent of Awakening” took six months for Chicago-based artist Sarah Raskey to complete. She included family heirlooms and artifacts collected in her travels into the work and stood in as the model.



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The redesigned lobby features light fixtures that hung in the original hotel. They have been sitting in the hotel's basement for decades, and were refurbished and rewired to feature LED lighting. The rugs were inspired by a



painting by Raskey.

The front desk has been relocated so it is easier to find, Perino-Fleming said. It is now the first thing guests see when they exit the elevators or come up the stairs from the ground-floor entrance.



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Bar Allegro, open 4 to 11 p.m. daily, is located in the lobby. The bar is a new addition, and features grab-and-go options for guests who want to take drinks to their rooms. It is also open to the public.

The headboards and wallpaper in the guest rooms are art deco-inspired. The rooms are black and white, to resemble a black-and-white photo, but add a splash of color.

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