

R A N D

The Algonquin Hotel

Exterior Repairs, Historic Restoration, and Plumbing Upgrade



The Beaux Arts-inspired Algonquin Hotel, where literary legends once gathered at the famed Round Table, opened its doors in 1902. Its neo-Renaissance facade features historic decorative ornamentation including roaring terra cotta lions.

PROPERTY

13-story, 181-room Beaux Arts-inspired hotel at 59 West 44th Street in Midtown Manhattan, a New York City Historic Landmark.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1902, the Algonquin Hotel was originally designed as an apartment building. When the apartments failed to attract enough tenants, the building was turned into a hotel and in 1907 christened as The Algonquin after the first tribes to occupy the area.

Among the hotel's claims to fame was the Algonquin Round Table, a group of journalists, authors, publicists, critics, playwrights, and actors who met daily at the hotel from 1919 to 1929. Core members included Dorothy Parker, Robert Benchley, George S. Kaufman, and Harold Ross. The meetings introduced significant literary styles and movements

to American culture, including The New Yorker magazine, which Ross founded and financed in 1925 after winning a high-stakes game of poker against other members of the "Vicious Circle" (as the group called itself).

The hotel was designated a New York City Historic Landmark in 1987, and a National Literary Landmark in 1996.

RAND'S PROJECT HISTORY

RAND has worked at the Algonquin Hotel since 1996. The projects include the following:

- 4th to 8th Cycle Facade Inspection Safety Program (FISP) inspections
- Exterior repairs
- Historic restoration
- Plumbing upgrade
- Sidewalk repair program
- Sidewalk vault evaluation

Facade

The facade repair programs included restoration of the bay window metalwork and repairing and replacing historic terra cotta and stone elements to restore period details to their former glory.

Plumbing

The plumbing upgrade entailed the installation of a new domestic water service main, a combined sanitary/storm water sewer from the city main, and a new duplex suspended wet-pit sewage ejector pump system.

Expediting Services

All Department of Buildings and Landmarks Preservation Commission work permits were obtained by RAND's Code & Zoning Compliance Team.

ENGINEER/ARCHITECT

RAND Engineering & Architecture, DPC