

PERIOD CARPETING FOR A NEW YORK MASTERPIECE

HotelSpec looks at the challenge faced by Thai Dynasty Carpet when commissioned to supply handmade rugs and carpets to the St Regis Hotel, New York.



The 2,027 square feet carpet in the Versailles Ballroom, The St Regis Hotel, New York

For the past two decades Thai Dynasty has been manufacturing and distributing quality hand-tufted carpets and rugs under the Royal Thai name. The firm's mill has the capacity to accommodate the dyeing and production of up to 100,000 square feet of carpet per month. This ability to establish a quality service on a fast track basis has enabled Thai Dynasty to supply to some of the most prestigious hotels in the world including the Ritz Carlton Boston, Marriott Toronto and Dallas, Swissotel Atlanta, Windsor Hotel Americus, and most recently, the newly restored and reopened St Regis Hotel in New York.

Director of interior design, Jinnie Kim, along with Mallory Warren and Barbara Parker of Graham Design created all the carpet designs based on authentic 18th and 19th century traditional French Antique Aubussons which Jinnie Kim had researched in French museums. She also visited Thai Dynasty's factory in Bangkok and worked closely with the company's Thai design staff. Over 7,000 sq ft of hand tufted custom designed rugs were supplied to the hotel to adorn The Versailles Ballroom, Le Salon, Tea Salon, The

Louis XVI Room, Library, Watteau Room, Eastside Foyer and The Presidential Suite.

In keeping with the hotel's turn of the century architectural style, all the carpet designs are antique reproductions which complement the period theme. In the Versailles Ballroom a large rug covers the floor expanse with traditional floral decorative features on a deep red background which complements both the drapes and the chair upholstery. Three elegant chandeliers hang from the elaborately decorated ceiling at intervals which echo the main octagonal motifs on the carpet.

The Versailles Ballroom carpet was manufactured and shipped from the firm's mill in one piece - it weighed approximately 2 tons and had to be pulled up to the second floor ballroom window for installation.

Now being operated by ITT Sheraton, which looks upon The St Regis as its international flagship property, the 1904 hotel has taken its place as one of New York's foremost hotels following the three year renovation and refurbishment programme. John Kapioltas, chairman, president and chief executive officer of ITT Sheraton Corporation,

commented on the opening in September 1991: "We take great pride in the restoration of this artistic treasure. We believe it will quickly become the premiere hotel in New York City and one of the finest in the world."

As one of the largest hand-tufted carpet manufacturers in the world, Thai Dynasty has its head office and showroom in New York City's Architect and Designer Building and has recently opened Thai Dynasty (Canada) Inc. located at the Ontario Design Centre in Toronto. The company has over 25 manufacturer's representatives and agents throughout North America and has expanded its operations to include England, Germany, Japan and S. Korea. The firm's factory in Bangkok is one of the largest single hand tufted manufacturing facilities in the world and combines state of the art technology with traditional craftsmanship. □

Project design credits:

- ITT Sheraton
- Brennan Beer Gorman Monk Architect
- Graham Design Ltd
- Tishman
- Bill King Design & Consultant