



ACC Construction and Gensler Architects complete renovation of The Durst Organization's 1133 Sixth Avenue lobby

December 09, 2013 - Design / Build

ACC Construction has recently completed the lobby renovation at The Durst Org.'s 1133 Sixth Ave. The renovated lobby features a custom light fixture, new desk and security systems, new travertine stonework and terrazzo floor, as well as newly installed revolving doors.

"1133 was the headquarters of The Durst Org. for many years and the building was the first my grandfather, father and uncles built on Sixth Ave.," said Jonathan (Jody) Durst, president of The Durst Org. "The building's timeless design, efficient floor-plates and optimal location make it as compelling today as it was when it was constructed. The beautiful new lobby and artwork update this classic to the 21st century and we expect will make it a desirable corporate address for at least another 40 years."

Located in the welcome area, and for all to see through the window on Sixth Ave., is a magnificent work by light artist, Leo Villareal. He designed a 90 ft. long, 12 ft. high and 6 ft. deep extreme element of light for the centerpiece of the lobby. This is a record sized piece by Villareal, and has 900, 12 ft., thin mirrored, stainless steel blades branching down from the ceiling. In total there are 86,400 LED lights encompassed on the blades. It is a piece of fine art that not only catches your eye, but has beautiful flow and movement. The new lobby desk measures over 35 ft. long and contains the newly installed state of the art security equipment for the building, The premium onyx stone on the desk allows for the reflection of the LED lights which creates an ongoing sunlight effect throughout the lobby.

"The light sculpture was a great success. To me some of the other important features are more subtle, but equal in value. For instance, instead of replacing all of the existing travertine on the walls, we had the stone cleaned, honed and buffed to almost brand new. There is a lot of stone in the lobby and keeping it was a terrific re-use of material and preserved more of the original character of the lobby," said Rocco Giannetti, principal of Gensler Architects. "In fact the whole design motif was rooted in respect of the originally designed lobby that had been modified once before, so we tried our best to re-emphasize the original. In addition to the light sculpture, the light colored floors and walls are a perfect backdrop for rotating art exhibits - a long tradition at this building lobby. So the lobby operates as the front door for its tenants, as well as an art gallery for them and their guests to enjoy."

ACC worked collaboratively with Gensler and The Durst Org. to complete the renovation within the 25 week schedule. The team ensured the lobby was safe and operational at all times throughout the construction duration. A scaffold was installed in the entire lobby interior to allow for the constant use of the space below. The implementation of a security desk enabled all systems to be fully operational during the entire construction process as well. George Samiou, principal of ACC

Construction said, "The lobby is unique in design, premium in features, and a pure masterpiece that can be viewed by the public at any time. It was truly an honor working with the team on this endeavor."

Behind the new revolving glass doors, you will find one of the most dramatic and welcoming spaces in New York City. With a client's first philosophy, and the goals of a collaborative, team approach, ACC, The Durst Org. and Gensler Architects created an outstanding entry to this 6th Ave. property.

New York Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540