

THE STORY OF A 16TH CENTURY PUB

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Surrounding you is a Pub created in England around 1570. In those days, Pubs were extensions of the innkeeper's home and were enlarged as the need increased. Originally built in three stages, the two large tables (by the lobby entrance) were the beginning; then an outside wall was removed, and three booths were added as well as the tables in the center of the room. Some years later, the outside wall was again taken down and the remainder of the tables around the fireplace were added. Note that the chairs are purposely different, reflecting the passage of years.

Saunders retained Alex Waugh, English authority on period restorations, to recreate this authentic Pub in The Lenox to continue the restoration of the hotel which today is complete throughout 225 bedrooms, 8 conference and private dining rooms and two restaurants.

Waugh bought a barn built in 1490, a structure he describes as "magnificent" but in such poor condition that he used only the best timbers for molds. He also produced a Cotswold stone, a rugged looking material similar to cobblestone. So authentic or natural appearing are these synthetic materials that you cannot tell the difference unless you tap them.

All the materials for the room were produced in England, numbered and shipped to Boston where the numbers corresponded to a plan of the room drawn to one quarter inch specifications.

One feature is the use of shaped "knees". In the past these timbers were acquired from ships too old to serve their purpose, but with oak sound enough for internal use. The ceiling is beamed below a rough trowel finish. Designer Waugh specified that "no smooth trowel be used". The problem he said "was to persuade plasterers to execute what they call 'bad workmanship' ". So versatile has this polyester resin become that antique artifacts such as "pewter" mugs were fashioned from it to achieve the old world look.

Waugh is head of Warfords, Ltd., an interior design firm based in Gerrards Cross in Buckinghamshire, England. He has worked for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios and among his clients were such notables as Greta Garbo, Clark Gable, and Norma Shearer. Later, he was in charge of set interiors for the Arthur Rank Studios in England.

The Lenox itself is named after the family of Lady Sarah Lenox, beloved of King George III who ruled before and during the American Revolution. Lucias Boomer, original owner of The Lenox and manager of the first Waldorf-Astoria decided on the name to honor the anniversary of over 150 years of peaceful English and American relationships.

During the past dozen years, The Lenox has been completely rebuilt and has recently won the coveted National Award by Hospitality Magazine for the best designed hotel rooms in the United States.