

AN ORNAMENT TO THE CITY

DAVID H. KING, JR.'S, MAGNIFICENT HOTEL RENAISSANCE.

DESIGNED FOR FAMILIES AND BACHELORS—IT CONTAINS MANY NOVEL AND ADMIRABLE FEATURES—THOROUGHLY FIRE-PROOF.

One of the handsomest and most interesting buildings in the city is the new Hotel Renaissance, in West Forty-third Street, near Fifth Avenue. It is an example of the French Renaissance style of architecture, and is light and airy in all its features and mechanical treatment. But it is a type of the Renaissance with pronounced American interpretations, as might have been expected, seeing that the owner and builder is Mr. David H. King, Jr. The new building occupies as eligible a site for the purpose for which it is intended as could well have been found.

Designed for a high-class family and bachelors' hotel, it is conveniently situated for communication with all the places of popular resort and all the lines of travel, and it is in the centre of the club district. Preliminary to the construction Mr. King made a personal inspection and study of all the best specimens of hotels and apartment houses in France and Italy, and as a result has designed a building with more individual and attractive points than are contained in any other building of similar purpose and size in the country.

It is a new fire-proof structure, with foundations, like the grave of the tavern keeper's wife, "both wide and deep." The floor beams are of heavy wrought iron and the floors are all laid in cement on hollow brick arches.

The interior construction is of iron and hollow terra-cotta brick, strong and light, as best comporting with the style of architecture. The staircases, of which there are two for guests and two others for the use of the domestics, are built solidly of stone and iron, without a particle of inflammable material about them, and the entire building is lathed with wrought-iron, fire-proof lathing, upon which three courses of plaster are laid. For some of the interior walls around the court, which forms the most conspicuous feature of the handsome building, stucco has been employed in a new and very successful manner, which has resulted in reproducing an effect similar to the interiors of the most celebrated structures of this class in Florence, Paris, and Madrid.

The hotel covers a plot 125 feet front and 100 feet deep on the south side of West Forty-third Street, and it is seven stories high. For the lower stories those materials were employed which were best calculated to reflect the general renaissance style. The two lower stories are in dressed marble, with balcony windows in the second story. The five upper stories are of cream-colored brick, with heavy terra-cotta trimmings, the third and fourth tiers of windows balconied, and the frieze heavily ornamented.

The entrance in the middle of the front is of the beautiful Caen marble, that responds so readily as it comes from the quarry to the sculptor's chisel and grows so hard and strong upon exposure to the air. The entrance is in the form of a porch, two stories high, of fluted marble columns supporting Corinthian capitals, with two wide balconies enclosed by heavy stone-balustered railings. The massive and richly ornamented cornice is crowned with another heavy stone balustrade, which imparts a symmetry and solidity to the architectural effect that is very pleasing.

The vestibule is wainscoted in Caen marble in beautiful tints, and the walls are frescoed in harmony with the decorations of the other rooms and halls on the main floor. Through the round arched vestibule, entrance is had to the main hall, and its diverging halls and corridors that flank the court on either hand. To the right and left of the vestibule are the café and general reception room, both of them large and handsomely-decorated saloons. Back of these and to the right and left of the court are the private dining rooms, two in number, on either side, and while they are quite separable, insuring all desirable privacy they are capable of being opened and thrown together when occasion requires. The dining rooms are designed especially to accommodate private dinner parties, and since the hotel is to have one of the best chefs of Paris, Mr. King counts upon a considerable patronage from this class of custom. From the Florentine galleries that separate the private dining rooms from the court yard, the main dining room in the back of the building is reached.

The main dining room is one of the handsomest dining halls in the country. It occupies the entire space back of the court and private dining rooms and galleries, being the entire width of the building except the space reserved for the serving rooms at either end. The main dining hall is trisected by mural arches so as to give it the effect of three rooms thrown into one. The ornamentation of this room is in the highest form of the frescoer's art.

From the service rooms dumbwaiters and pantry stairs communicate with the kitchen, which is in the basement below. The halls are treated in a simple colonial manner, with marble staircases and richly-wrought iron railings. The floors are of polished oak, laid in a herring-bone pattern, and are intended to be covered with Indian carpets, made expressly for the rooms in which they are to go. The elevators, of which there are two on either side of the building, are oval in form, and are to be finished in gold and Vernis Martin, with painted panels and Louis XV. decorations.

The walls and ceilings of the café, parlor, and main dining room are covered with Louis XV. panels, beautifully modeled, and are to be colored in delicate caterose and green tones. The small dining rooms are to be covered in silk and to be decorated and furnished in the style of the empire. In the basement are the steam heating, elevator traction, and electric lighting and annunciator plants, as complete and satisfactory in their several parts as the technical skill of Mr. King in such matters was able to dictate.

Above the main story the floors are divided off into suites and apartments, in which all the rooms open into each other where that is desirable, so as to increase or diminish the number of rooms in a suite to suit the requirements of tenants. Each suite is entered from the hall through a private vestibule, thus insuring perfect privacy for all. All the interior rooms open out upon the court, in the middle of which there is a fountain banked with growing flowers and tropical plants.

Over the transverse galleries that lead from the main hall to the main dining room are balconies for the use of the tenants of the first-floor apartments. A massive stone balustrade along this balcony serves the double purpose of protection and ornamentation. Balcony windows from the second floor on the south side of the court afford an inviting view when there is music or an entertainment in the court in the afternoon or evening. Above the second floor the building is inclosed on only three sides, the south side being left open to the sunlight.

Throughout the building all the work was specialized, so far as was possible, in order to secure the best results. The carpets for the main rooms, halls, stairways, and suites of apartments are being specially made to harmonize with the general style and character of the interior construction and decorations of the building.

When completed, the hotel will be capable of extraordinary decoration for festive or ceremonial occasions. The large court, with its springing fountain, will admit of shading from the Summer sun by awnings, making it a desirable, cool, and pleasant open-air dining room in warm weather.

Electric lights properly disposed will make this open-court dining room quite as inviting by night as it is sure to be by day. Mr. King expects to have the building ready for occupancy by the 1st of October.