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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Restoration of Empire State Building Lobby in NYC to be honored

ALBANY, NY – April 30, 2010 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the **The Empire State Building Lobby Restoration** in Manhattan to receive an award for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

The League's statewide awards program honors notable achievements in retaining, promoting and reusing New York State's irreplaceable architectural heritage.

"One of the most iconic structures in the city and in the world, the Empire State Building was completed in 1931. Unfortunately, modernizations and insensitive modifications made over time had obscured and detracted from the Art Deco lobby, one of the few interiors designated a historic landmark by the Landmarks Preservation Commission," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. "The building's owners' dedication to historic preservation is illustrated by the retention of some of the best architects, engineers, and historic paint conservators and restoration specialists in the city. Additionally, the Jury was delighted to have a shining example of a landmarked interior space achieving energy efficiency hand-in-hand with historic restoration."

Contributing to the success of this project were The Empire State Building Company, LLC; Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners LLP; Jones Lang LaSalle; Robert Silman Associates, PC; Two Twelve Associates, Inc.; Goldman Copeland Associates, PC; EverGreene Painting Studios, Inc.; Rambusch Studios; and Hunter Roberts Interiors – all of New York; The Lighting Practice of Philadelphia, PA and Amses Cosma Inc. of Brooklyn.

Following nearly two years of research, and guided by historical documents, photos, original design sketches and forensic analysis of existing architectural elements, the lobby has been restored to the original architects' vision. According to Peter L. Malkin, General Partner,

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Empire State Building Company, LLC, “The highlight of our lobby restoration is the faithful recreation of the original 1930s Art Deco ceiling mural. Designed as a tribute to the mechanical age, it was constructed of aluminum leaf and 23 karat gold applied to canvas and depicted a celestial sky with sunbursts and stars that rendered as gears and cogs in homage to the mechanical age.”

The award will be presented at the Preservation League’s Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 12th** at the historic **New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44th Street**.

The complete list of award winners is: William S. Hackett Middle School, Albany; The Belmont Hotel, Allegany County; Walkway over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie; The Guaranty Building, Buffalo; The American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street Façades, New York; Empire State Building Lobby Restoration, New York; Oswego Public Library, Oswego; West Hall at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy. *Looking for Work: Industrial Archeology in Columbia County, New York* by Peter H. Stott (Syracuse University Press, 2007) will be honored as an outstanding publication. Senator David Valesky and Assemblymember Sam Hoyt, Legislative sponsors of the New York State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, will be honored for individual excellence.

“Excellence in Preservation Awards are our principal means of honoring the preservation community and educating the public about the important contribution that historic preservation projects make to our quality of life throughout New York State,” said DiLorenzo. “Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable projects, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to give the Empire State Building Lobby Restoration the statewide recognition it deserves.”

The Preservation League’s Excellence in Historic Preservation awards program is funded by a generous grant from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation of Miami, Florida.

By leading a statewide preservation movement, sharing information and expertise and raising a unified voice, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize our neighborhoods and communities, honor our heritage and enrich our lives.

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