FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Beekman Hotel and Residences/Temple Court in NYC to be honored

ALBANY, NY - 5/2/17 - The Preservation League of New York State has selected the rehabilitation of the Beekman Hotel and Residences/Temple Court in lower 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.

“This project used State and Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits to breathe new life into late 19th-century relic of a ‘fireproof’ New York office building,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “Ironically, compliance with fire codes contributed to the building’s downfall in the 1950s when the full-height skylighted atrium was closed in. After extensive renovation of the interior and exterior, the Beekman Hotel and Residences now boasts 287 rooms – with 77 opening onto the atrium. The design team devised a means to keep the atrium open while meeting New York City’s rigorous safety codes – with a minimum of intrusion on the meticulously restored historic fabric.”

The project team included Allen Gross, Chairman and CEO; Steven Hurwitz, President; Eric Bass, Executive Vice President; Stan Spiegelman, Vice President; and Matt Rosenbloom, Associate of GFI Development Company; Randy Gerner, Principal; Miguel Valcarcel, Principal; Benita Welch, Principal; Julia Meier, Associate; Magda Dlugosz, Associate; Karen Man, Design Resources; and Mark Muster, Business Development of Gerner, Kronick + Valcarcel; Martin Brudnizki, Principal, Gianpiero Gaglione and Amy Cann of Martin Brudnizki Design Studio; Wade Johnson of R. Wade Johnson Design; Stanford Chan, Principal and Leonard Franco, Project Manager of Vidaris, Inc.; Ward Dennis, Partner and Jørgen Cleemann, Associate of Higgins Quasebarth & Partners; Mary Jablonski, Principal, Jablonski Building Conservation; EverGreene Architectural Arts; Brian Orter of BOLD Lighting; Bruce Lilker, President and David Tannenbaum, Senior Vice President of Lilker Associates Consulting
Temple Court is a contributing building in the National Register of Historic Places’ Fulton-Nassau Historic District, and is an individually-designated New York City landmark. The building’s most significant interior feature is its full-height skylighted atrium. Surrounded on each floor by windows, doors and an ornamented cast iron walkway paved with polychrome encaustic tiles, the atrium was designed to introduce natural light into interior office spaces, facilitate circulation, and serve as a grand architectural showpiece. When the building was purchased by an affiliate of GFI Capital Resources Group in 2012, its façades were covered in paint and most of the interior beyond the atrium had been gutted in prior, failed rehabilitations. The rehabilitation of the building for The Beekman Hotel and Residences was carried out following the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and required extensive restoration of the facade and significant interior spaces, along with replication of significant missing fabric at both the interior and exterior of the building.

“The Beekman Hotel and Residences brings to life one of New York City’s most stunning and unique interior spaces and the restored building will be an important addition to lower Manhattan’s continued revitalization. This project required a careful balance of restoration and new interventions that would not have been possible without our tremendous team of experts,” said Allen Gross, Chairman and CEO of GFI Capital Resources Group.

The awards will be presented at the Preservation League’s Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10th at the historic New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44th Street.

The complete list of award winners is: Phoenix Brewery Apartments, Buffalo; Beekman Hotel and Residences/Temple Court, New York City; A. Philip Randolph Houses, Phase One, New York City; South Street Seaport Museum: the 1885 sailing ship Wavertree, New York City; Rouge Tomate Chelsea, New York City; Marriott Syracuse Downtown (formerly Hotel Syracuse); Pickens Hall & Opera House, Heuvelton; Argos Inn, Ithaca. Ruth Pierpont, the former Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation and the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, will be honored for decades of service to the cause of historic preservation in New York State.

“With our annual awards program, the Preservation League explores not just the present, but the future of historic preservation. Many of the 2017 award winners provide valuable examples for others by incorporating energy efficiency techniques, adaptive reuse strategies and use of Federal and State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits,” said DiLorenzo. “Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable nominations, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to celebrate the rebirth of the Beekman Hotel and Residences/Temple Court, and to commend all members of the project team for their leadership and vision.”