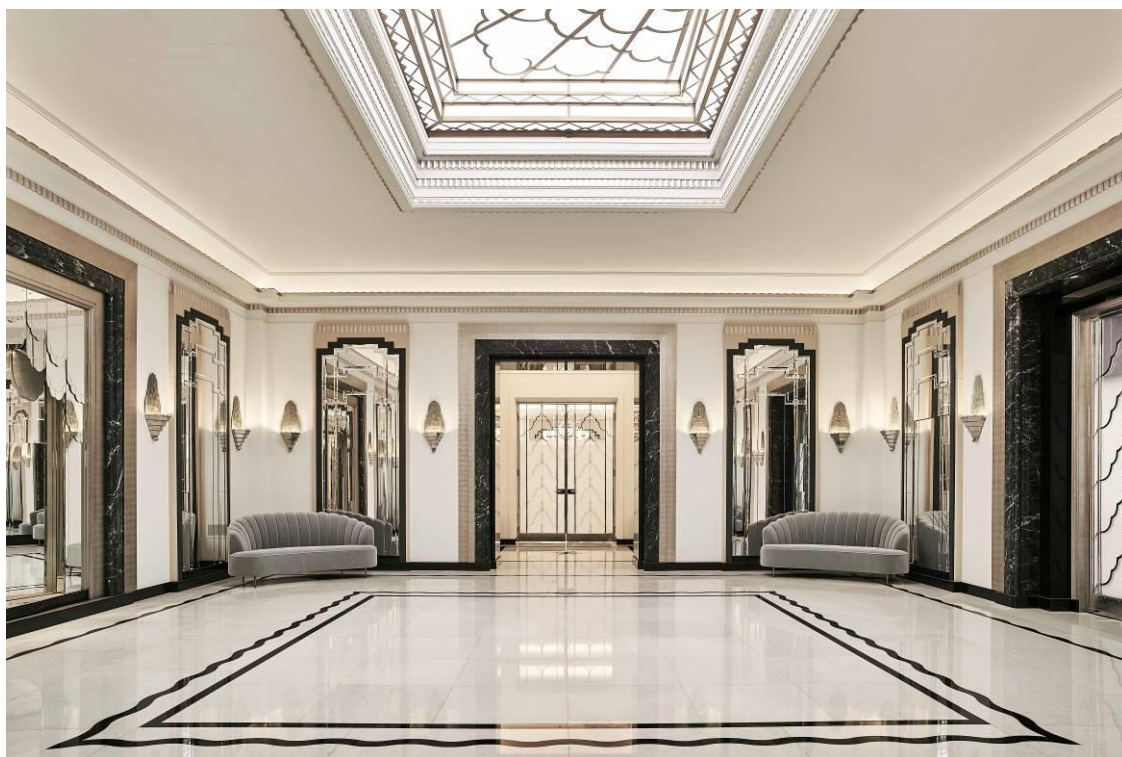




CLARIDGE'S



CLARIDGE'S UNVEILS ITS NEWLY RESTORED BALLROOM

The home of glittering society parties is revealed with new design

Claridge's, the art deco jewel of Mayfair, has revealed - following an extensive restoration - the newly designed and legendary Claridge's Ballroom. Originally designed and constructed in 1929 by Oswald Milne, and after numerous alterations through the years, this hallowed space which has hosted high society for more than a hundred years, has been creatively restored to its former glory.

Over the years the English Heritage listed Claridge's Ballroom has played host to society weddings, state banquets and magnificent balls. It was the venue of choice for the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh's Ruby Wedding Anniversary and where Audrey Hepburn was celebrated at the wrap party of Roman Holiday in 1953. This new restoration paves the way for more dazzling events at Claridge's at the heart of London society for many more years to come.

Crossing the threshold of the revolving Claridge's Ballroom doors, a private entrance on Brook Street, guests are now welcomed with a striking Art Deco-inspired scallop patterned floor in nero maquina and white marble, echoing the iconic black and white floor of the hotel's lobby. New chandelier and wall lights inspired by the original design from the 1920's illuminate the space, but perhaps the most spectacular addition is an eglomise mirror, by artist Emma Peascod, telling the story of the glamour of Claridge's Ballroom throughout history. The motifs on the eglomise panels depict female silhouettes, dressed in evening gowns inspired by the Art Deco and Hollywood Golden eras at Claridge's. Referencing Claridge's archives, Studio Peascod depicted these dresses from three actual events held in the Ballroom; the 1928 "Dream of Fair Women Ball" where gowns and costumes were presented as the past, present and future of fashion, (and from where Cecil Beaton based many of his sketches on); the 1931 "Porcelain Ball", and the evening gown showcase in 1953 in preparation for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's coronation.

The shining marble-floored Ballroom Reception has also been sympathetically restored having, too, undergone much adaptation since 1929. Remnants of the historic design, and most excitingly, an original square-tiered lay light, originally constructed by the Birmingham Guild, was discovered early in the project and fully restored by metal manufacturers Rathbana and the broken glazing replaced by Sterling Studio. The Art Deco design of this lay light is characterised by bold shapes, sunrays, clouds, with silhouettes of imperial-airways aircrafts flying through the sky.

In the Ballroom itself, guests will celebrate under a ceiling that has been completely restored. The most significant change of the iconic space in the last century was the loss of its original Art Deco ceiling, as it was considered to be old-fashioned at the time. Digging deep into the hotel's archive and the Royal Institute of British Architecture's original plate photography, historic photographs were unearthed from the opening of the ballroom wing and other events in its early history, and the original details - long lines of superimposed cornice with concealed lighting - have been painstakingly retraced by Blair Associates Architecture Ltd. The mirrors in the ballroom were reconstructed to match the original 1930 mirrors and the wall lights are also faithful reproductions of the 1930s fittings.



Replacing the ceiling provided the opportunity of installing sound insulating structures designed to protect bedrooms and suites above the Ballroom from louder acoustics, be that music or speeches. The elevated space has also allowed the installation of concealed lighting to wash across the three-tiered ceiling, with the silver-leafed superimposed cornices providing a true restoration of the grandeur and luxury of the original design. Light fittings and mirror designs have been handcrafted to replicate the original design, and columns and pilasters have been re-gilded using the finest Palladian leaf.

Mathilde Maitre, Director of Events at Claridge's commented: "We are so looking forward to getting back to plotting and planning more glamorous weddings and parties, where our team can bespoke magic for each and every event. Our Chefs have been busy working on creating new dishes and menus, and this painstaking restoration really puts Claridge's back on the top of the hotel event scene."

Claridge's Ballroom is the perfect setting for romantic weddings, elegant fashion shows, society dinners, glamorous awards ceremonies and of course, conferences and business presentations. One of the few ground-floor ballrooms in London, the entranceway is privatised on Brook Street. Claridge's Ballroom is 2621 square feet and can accommodate up to 500 guests for a champagne reception and up to 240 for a sit down dinner dance. The adjoining Mirror Room has also been redesigned and offers further space for dinner or indeed dining for larger events.

For more information about Claridge's Ballroom please call our Events Team directly on +44 (0)207 409 6500 or email banqueting@claridges.co.uk

Alternatively for more information please visit Claridge's website <https://www.claridges.co.uk/meetings-events/event-spaces/ballroom>

For further information, please contact:

[ABOUT CLARIDGE'S](#)

At the centre of London's Mayfair, Claridge's, part of Maybourne Hotel Group, embodies grand English style, timeless glamour and impeccable, intuitive and highly tailored service. It is London's art deco jewel, and home to elegant rooms and suites. From London's finest afternoon tea in the Foyer, Michelin star dining from Daniel Humm at Davies and Brook to vintage champagnes and cocktails at Claridge's Bar, all are part of the hotel's unique splendour and charm.

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