

Hampton Inn & Suites Providence Downtown garners Hilton historic award

By **Chris Barrett** - 08/13/2010



THE LOBBY of the Hampton Inn & Suites Providence Downtown. The hotel recently won an award for the project. /

PROVIDENCE – The Hampton Inn & Suites Providence Downtown captured a national award last month for preserving a historic building.

Awarded by Hilton Worldwide on July 21, developers First Bristol Corp. and Granoff Associates received one of six “Best Conversion” awards and the only one bestowed on a New England project. Hilton Worldwide owns the Hampton Inn & Suites brand.

The developers spent \$20 million to renovate the Old Colony Bank on Weybosset Street into a 110-room boutique hotel. The building was constructed in 1926, Today, visitors find a front desk traded for teller booths. The two-story atrium created by Parker-Torres Designs of Boston features classic lines and design features of the original 20th-century architecture.

The second floor includes the 500-square-foot Old Colony Board Room with traditional crown molding and wood paneling and the original ornately-framed mirror above the wood fireplace. Antique chandeliers recovered from the St. Francis Church hang in the meeting room. Newport Collaborative Architects designed the hotel.

“We are thrilled to be recognized by Hilton Worldwide for preserving one of the city’s historical landmarks and refurbishing it as a new Hampton Inn & Suites Providence,” First Bristol Corp. President James Karam said. “We share this award with our many passionate and dedicated team members who have made the property a successful destination within the city’s financial district and nearby Brown University.”

This is the second time the First Bristol Corp. has won a Best Conversion Award from Hilton Worldwide. The company previously received one three years ago for its 140-room Norwood Hampton Inn & Suites in Norwood, Mass.