

The New York Times

Travel



TRAVEL ADVISORY; A Change of Patina At the King David Hotel

By RAY CORMIER

Published: February 28, 1999

Return visitors to the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, one of the best known in the Middle East, are probably doing a double take these days. The hotel they thought they knew probably seems vaguely different as they enter the lobby, because of a recently completed three-year interior renovation by the architect Adam D. Tihany in conjunction with **Lea Mahler** of Jerusalem.

Mr. Tihany, noted for designing restaurants like Le Cirque 2000 and Remi in New York, said he tried to "keep the perception of the six-story King David while changing the patina," by sticking to the original scale and colors of the hotel. The same blue, white and gold decor and the marble floor predominate.

The sense of change should grab hold in the rooms, which were reconfigured and redecorated. The number of rooms was reduced to 237, from 255, of which 37 are suites, an increase of 13. Four of them are duplexes. Each room has new furniture and lighting.

Perhaps the most obvious change is the moving of La Regence, the restaurant destroyed in 1946 by a bomb placed by Menachem Begin's guerrillas, to a central spot under the terrace facing the Old City.