

# IMPERIAL HOTEL



PARK CENTRAL + IMPERIAL HOTELS, 1992  
in NEW YORK MAGAZINE: SOHO IN THE SUN

PHOTOS BELOW SHOW EXISTING TERRAZZO  
DESIGNS AT FORMER LOBBY FLOOR.



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 NEW YORK TIMES  
 OBITUARY for TONY GOLDMAN

Richard Anthony Goldman, who was born in Wilmington, Del., on Dec. 6, 1943, was adopted by Charles and Tillie Goldman, a prosperous couple who lived on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. He worked in his father's coat factory from the age of 15 to learn the trade.

Mr. Goldman went to Emerson College in Boston, where, on the first day of orientation, he met Janet Ehrlich. They married in 1966, the same year he graduated with a bachelor's degree in drama. After returning to New York, Mr. Goldman learned real estate from an uncle. "He would stay late and bring his uncle a Scotch," Ms. Goldman recalled, "and they would talk real estate, and that's where he got his foundation in the business." In 1968, he struck out on his own and founded the Goldman Properties Company, which worked mainly on the Upper West Side. He lived in SoHo. He and his wife had two children, but by the mid-1970s, deciding that they had married too young, they divorced, Ms. Goldman said. In retrospect, she added, "it was a good thing — it allowed us to branch out and try new things."

Mr. Goldman soon opened the Greene Street Café, a business investment that also gave him a place to go and sing without being kicked off the stage, Ms. Goldman said. "Tony was a crooner," she said. She and Mr. Goldman remarried in 1977, and eventually, both their children, Jessica Goldman Srebnick and Joey Goldman, joined the business. Ms. Goldman Srebnick will become the chief executive of Goldman Properties. In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by a brother, Mark, from his adoptive family. About 15 years ago, Mr. Goldman was reunited with his birth family. He is also survived by a sister from that family, Pam Skerker.

An obituary on Sept. 16 about the developer Tony Goldman misstated the name of the organization that gave him a lifetime achievement award in 2010. It is the National Trust for Historic Preservation — not the National Historical Trust or the National Trust for Historical Preservation. The obituary also misidentified the part of Philadelphia that he helped rejuvenate. It is the area now known as Midtown Village, not Rittenhouse Square.

Mr. Goldman did not like to be called a developer. "Developers are knock 'em down, build 'em up guys," he told The New York Times in 2000. "That's not me." Instead, he saw himself as a long-term investor in the revitalization of historic neighborhoods.

[Roberta Brandes Gratz](#), the author of several books on urban lifestyles and a former member of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, said Mr. Goldman's genius was in recognizing not just the value of old buildings but also the importance of their context. He understood that what makes a neighborhood is the diversity of uses," she said. "Restaurants put people on the streets and add vibrancy. People who wanted to stay in the city wanted to walk to amenities and not drive."

On a trip to a developers' conference in Miami in 1985, Mr. Goldman went with local preservationists to see crumbling Art Deco hotels along a section of turquoise ocean in Miami Beach. Seeing the area's potential, he started buying — one building a month for 18 months.

With a talent for self-promotion, he came to say he had "discovered" South Beach, although it was already a decade in the making when he began investing in it. No matter, said Michael D. Kinerk, chairman emeritus of the [Miami Design Preservation League](#), the caretaker of Miami Beach's historic districts. "He wasn't the first, but he was early, and he was the largest and the most visionary."

Mr. Kinerk said that unlike other developers, Mr. Goldman endeared himself to preservationists by saving the interiors of Art Deco gems as well as their exteriors, furnishing them with period furniture and framed old photos.