

Breathing new life into a Manhattan landmark

After two of its facades were destroyed in the September 11 attacks, expert stonecarvers have been called in to replicate the intricate stonework at the historic Barclay-Vesey Building in New York City

by Michael Reis



Much of the Barclay-Vesey Building's carved limestone was destroyed during the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York City. The Indiana limestone panels are currently being replicated by artisans such as Bob Carpenter (pictured) at Petrillo Stone Corp. of Mt. Vernon, NY.

In the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the damage to lower Manhattan was not limited to the World Trade Center buildings. Many architectural landmarks surrounding the complex were also damaged, some of them severely. One of these structures was the historic Barclay-Vesey Building, which is currently undergoing a restoration effort that includes the re-creation of its intricately carved limestone elements.

Originally built from 1923 to 1927 as the headquarters for New York Telephone, the Barclay-Vesey Building was significantly damaged when the fourth structure in the World Trade Center complex — Building Seven — collapsed. When Seven World Trade Center fell, steel girders from the building hit



Full-sized photos were taken of the building's stonework for the carvers to reference during the process. The photos were also used to make latex matting that outlines the surface designs of the stonework. This matting is then placed over the slabs so they can be sandblasted in the same way that stone monuments are processed.

the ground with such incredible force that they penetrated several feet into the pavement. And as a result of the tremendous impact of the collapse and resulting debris, two of the facades at the Barclay-Vesey Building were brutally affected. The face of the brick-and-limestone building had substantial holes that peered out onto the destruction of the World Trade Center complex, and much of the carved limestone was shattered well beyond repair.

The 32-story building had been designed by McKenzie Voorhees & Gmelin Architects as the first Art Deco skyscraper, with a height of nearly 500 feet. At the time of its opening, its designers were awarded the Architectural League of New York's gold medal of honor in 1927 for "fine expression of the new industrial age." It was named the Barclay-Vesey Building after the streets to its north and south.

Although much of the exterior is brick, the feature elements of the facade are limestone, including large cubic pieces as well as ornately carved panels. The carvings depict a broad range of designs, with images of a bell — New York Telephone's icon — as a recurring theme throughout.

Replicating classic stonework

To reproduce the original limestone carvings that were destroyed, Tishman Construction, the general contractor, selected Petrillo Stone Corp. of Mt. Vernon, NY. Owners Ralph and Frank Petrillo of Petrillo Stone Corp. explained that their company has had a history of working with Tishman and that its proximity to lower Manhattan made

The best
sealing
 systems for all of your natural stone
 and ceramic tile needs.

For a **FREE** sample visit:
www.miraclesealants.com/sws

MIRACLE
 Sealants Company

- Penetrating Sealers
- Cleaners
- Color Enhancement
- Gloss Enhancement
- Technical Support

Natural stone, ceramic tile, grout & masonry care products.

www.miraclesealants.com/sw
1.800.350.1901