

PROJECT PROFILE

John G. Shedd Aquarium Chicago, Illinois

VERTICAL
access



Scope of work

- Close visual examination and hammer-sounding of masonry at exterior façades.
- Documentation of fault conditions to assist project team with development of repair specifications.

Problems solved

- Provided training and guiding for project client to perform hands-on inspection of representative areas of façades.
- Completed close-visual examination of building with minimal impact on building occupants and public.

Original architect

Graham, Anderson, Probst & White (*completed 1929*)

Building description

Shedd Aquarium was the gift of John G. Shedd to the city of Chicago. Designed by the Chicago architectural firm of Graham, Anderson, Probst & White in 1925, groundbreaking took place in 1927, construction was completed in December, 1929 and the aquarium was opened in May, 1930. The building is situated in the Museum Campus area of Grant Park, adjacent to the Field Museum and near the Adler Planetarium. Like the Field Museum,

Photographs by Vertical Access

The Shedd Aquarium was designed in the Beaux Arts style, with classical Greek forms and ornamentation. The original building consisted of a central eight-sided rotunda with projecting wings at the cardinal directions. In 1991, a new structure, the Oceanarium, was added on the east side of the building, engulfing the original east wing.

The exterior of the original building is constructed of marble, with cast lead ornament at the roof of the rotunda. Most of the exterior masonry, including the Doric columns at the main entrance on the west façade, is white marble from Georgia. Terra cotta is used at the cornice throughout the building and for decorative panels on the porticos of the north and south wings. On the east side of Shedd Aquarium, the Oceanarium consists of large expanses of glass overlooking Lake Michigan with curtain wall panels and metal-clad columns. The north and south ends of the Oceanarium are clad in marble, purportedly reused from

the original east wing of the building that was partially demolished to construct the Oceanarium.



Building owner

City of Chicago

In collaboration with

Klein & Hoffman, Inc.