VERTICAL access QUARTERLY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2012 National Conferences of Association of State Dam Safety Officials, (ASDSO)
  Denver, CO
  September 16 - 20
  Booth #51

- 2012 Annual Conference of Association for Preservation Technology
  Charleston, SC
  September 30 - October 4

- Annual Meeting of ERAPPA
  Philadelphia, PA
  September 30 - October 3

- 12th International Congress on the Deterioration and Conservation of Stone
  Columbia University, New York, NY
  October 22-26

- Construction History Society of America BIennial Meeting
  Boston, MA
  November 2 - 3

- International Concrete Repair Institute Fall Convention
  Rancho Mirage, CA
  November 7 - 9

STAFF UPDATES

SPRAT Testing and Recertifications took place in May 2012 for the following staff:

Kelly Streeter, PE - Level 3

Evan Kopelson - Level 2

Kevin Dalton - Level 2

What is SPRAT?

The Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians is dedicated to promoting the safe development of industrial rope access standards worldwide. SPRAT's development of industry-consensus standards, including *Safe Practices for Rope Access Work* and *Certification Requirements for Rope Access Work*, has raised the awareness of the safety and effectiveness of rope access systems.

A SPRAT certification provides instant recognition and credibility for the technicians who carry it, and the companies who invest in it. In turn, clients that contract rope access services should look for the SPRAT certification, and know they're getting the industry's best in technical achievement.

The Role of Time in The Care of Buildings

When planning exterior repair projects, project teams sometimes speak of 20-year repairs, 30-year repairs or even 50-year repairs. These are the anticipated life spans of the major repairs carried out, with the expectation that the repair work will withstand the elements of weather and material degradation for one or two generations. The reality is that with most historic buildings, it is idealistic at best and dangerous at worst to expect major repair projects to completely eliminate the need for ongoing periodic maintenance and repairs. In some cases, the ongoing repairs required between major repair campaigns can be quite extensive. There are many variables that contribute to the longevity of repairs, including the original materials and repair materials, construction details, quality of work, climate and time itself.

In our work surveying monumental historic buildings, Vertical Access has the opportunity to see building systems of varying ages and degrees of deterioration as well as many generations of repairs installed to address this deterioration. Sometimes our investigations are part of the discovery phase of a major repair project, intended to be one of those 20-year or 50-year repairs. Other times, our survey work is part of a public safety inspection, either city-mandated or as part of a building owner's self-mandated schedule. Less often, but unfortunately with some regularity, the immediate impetus for our survey may be an unexpected failure of a material that becomes loose or dislodged.

Looking at two examples of historic churches in the Northeastern United States, one a brownstone church and the other constructed of marble, the role of time in planning repair projects becomes more clear. Continue reading article that includes actual condition photos in our blog.

Building a Vault in the Style of Rafael Guastavino

Kent Diebolt, founder of Vertical Access, recently spent two days in July working at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with John Ochsendorf, a group of his

Technology Note

Our clients often ask us for recommendations as to what hardware we use as we employ TPAS™ for the collection and cataloging of facade conditions data. VA has recently upgraded our tablet PCs to the Motion J3500 model. Its screen is optimized for outdoor use and its two batteries can be "hot swapped" to maximize productivity in the field. Our new cameras are Panasonic DMC-TS20s. As with the Motion tablet, the camera is built with durability and ruggedness in mind. We continue to develop the software side of TPAS™ to make condition surveys and field reporting more efficient. The new hardware will likewise add to our field productivity.

About Vertical Access

Vertical Access LLC collaborates with architecture, engineering and construction firms, and real estate professionals nationwide to perform specialized inspection and testing services using industrial rope access techniques on buildings, civil structures, towers, and monuments. Visit our website to learn more.

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students and two masons from the International Masonry Institute (IMI), building a mock-up of a vault in the Guastavino style for the upcoming exhibition, *Palaces for the People*. Years since first conception, John was recently successful in getting funding for a major exhibition that opens this fall at the Boston Public Library and will travel to the Museum of the City of New York and The National Building Museum in Washington, DC.

Our interest in the mock-up project was to construct portions of the vault with known faults (primarily delaminations between tile wythes). VA Partner Kelly Streeter has done some preliminary NDT testing using ultrasound to evaluate the structural integrity of multi-wythe tile vaults that has been promising. The MIT vault, constructed with known delaminations at varying depths will allow for more empirical testing of the technology. Kelly and Kent will be presenting the results of this ongoing research at the Construction History Society of America (CHSA) meeting at MIT this fall.

We'd like to say thank you to John for including us in this effort. It was another great learning experience and a pleasure to share in the group's enthusiasm for the work.

Additional Information:

- The Guastavino Project at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Additional photos from the workshop
- VA Research, The Guastavino Timeline 1842 - 1968

Gasson Hall at Boston College Restored to Original Beauty

In 2006 Vertical Access was part of the team that performed the initial inspection of Gasson Hall. Our findings, which included live-feed video, informed the restoration design of the 100 year old iconic symbol of Boston College. The completed restoration project just received an Honor Award for Excellence in Architecture for Restoration or Preservation from the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) and the American Institute of Architects Committee on Architecture for Eduction (AIA-CAE).

"*The project's focus was to faithfully replicate the appearance of the original cast stone details and improve the long-term durability of the masonry construction. The only long-term solution meant replacement of over 10,000 pieces of stone ranging from 18 pounds to over 4,000 pounds each. Boston College selected this preservation approach, and created a two-phased plan, focusing first on the tower, then on the remainder of the structure and its interior.*

The jury said " . . . a herculean research effort . . . it advances the body of knowledge about preservation . . . the detail was extraordinary . . ."

- Read the full award announcement SCUP/AIA-CAE Excellence in Architecture for Restoration or Preservation, Honor Award
- Vertical Access Project Profile: Gasson Hall Tower

TPAS Webinar On-Demand

Vertical Access uses a method of collecting digital survey data directly in the field - it's called TPAS™ - Tablet PC Annotation System. A recent online demonstration of the software was recorded and is now available for on-demand viewing using the link provided below.

Watch webinar - no login required: Introduction to TPAS

Read the TPAS blog and subscribe to automatically receive updates about new feature developments.