

Fall Greetings ~

Here are a couple of recent items that you might find interesting.

With the awarding of the U.S. Capitol Dome restoration project this month came a wave of stories in the press about the project and the scaffolding that will be going up. Many of the news stories include photos of the conditions that were documented by our team in 2007 and 2010. Here is the [Flickr gallery of the Architect of the Capitol](#) and an [NBC news report](#) which includes a few seconds of footage of us on the dome.

And, something fun to check out when you have few minutes is this [interactive map of New York City](#) that was published recently in Smithsonian Magazine comparing how it looks today to 1836.

All the best,
Vertical Access Staff

Conferences and Lectures

[RCI Symposium on Building Envelope Technology](#), Nov 14-15, Minneapolis, MN. Kent Diebolt attending.

[Concrete Canada 2013](#), Dec 4-6, Toronto. Evan Kopelson attending.

[SE University, Design of Maintenance Access and Fall Protection Systems for New and Existing Buildings](#), Dec 11, 12:30 - 2:00, online. Kelly Streeter presenting.

2014

[Webinar: "Maintenance and Access Fall Protection Systems for Civil Infrastructure"](#), Jan 15, 12:00pm EST. Kelly Streeter presenting. [Register here](#).

[Colorado Preservation Inc.'s Saving Places 2014 Annual Conference](#), Feb 5-7, Denver, CO. Kent Diebolt attending.

[SPRAT 2014 Annual Conference](#), Feb 5-9, 2014, Houston, TX. Keith Lusinski and Mike Gilbert attending.

[Iron and Steel Preservation Conference](#), March 3-4, Lansing, MI. Kent Diebolt attending.

[World Urban Forum - WUF7](#), April 5-11, Medellin, Columbia. Kent Diebolt attending.

The Cathedral: The Next 100, or 5,000, Years



A structure planned to "stand with practically no visible sign of change for 5,000 years." That assessment, by Perry Borchers, was published in the Ohio State Engineer journal in 1940, soon after west façade of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine was completed and just before the entire length of the Cathedral was consecrated in 1941.[1]

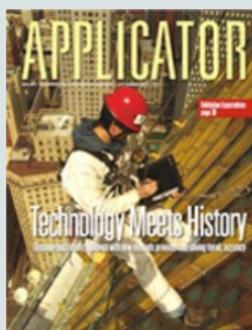
In fact, much of the planned Cathedral structure had not yet been completed at that point, including the two towers on the west side, the north and south transepts and the spire above the crossing. However, eight days after the Cathedral was opened for the first time from the main portal on the west to the end of the apse on the east, and almost fifty years after construction of the Cathedral began in 1892, the United States entered World War II and work on the Cathedral came to a halt. Construction resumed in the 1970s, and in the 1980s about fifty feet of height was added to the south tower.

The Cathedral, situated in Morningside Heights in Manhattan on land acquired by the Episcopal Diocese in 1887, was originally designed by George Lewis Heins and Christopher Grant LaFarge in 1888. Construction of the apse began in 1892 and the large central dome, constructed by the Guastavino Company, was completed in 1909: the largest dome ever built by the firm.

[Continue reading here and see slide show of Vertical Access' recent exterior inspection.](#)

[1] Perry Borchers, "The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York," Ohio State Engineer, vol. 23, no. 6 (May, 1940, 8-10).

Technology Meets History



An article authored by Kelly Streeter was featured in the Late Summer 2013 issue of APPLICATOR magazine.

Read an excerpt here of **Technology Meets History, Documenting historic buildings with new methods provides cost-saving detail, accuracy.**

Few building owners or managers appreciate how crucial the initial discovery phase is to the overall success and bottom-line cost of a facade renovation project. Too often, discovery is abbreviated in the misguided interest of time and cost. This often results in inflated construction bids as contractors hedge against uncertainty during the bidding period and expensive change orders that arise when surprises are encountered during the construction phase of work.

Architects operating between the building administrators and the contractors typically regard a thorough discovery process as a sound investment. This article describes a best-practices methodology for discovery phase documentation that incorporated field annotation of

Staff Updates

Mike Gilbert attended the two-day SPRAT 2013 Summer Meeting in Atlanta Georgia in July. Mike is the Vice-Chairperson of three SPRAT committees: the Standards Committee, the Standards Operating Committee, and the Safe Practices Document committee.

Also in July, Keith Luscinski joined a research team from the University of California, Berkeley to climb the giant sequoias in search of seed cones in the canopies. [Read about his adventure in our blog.](#)

About Vertical Access

Vertical Access LLC collaborates with architecture, engineering and construction firms, and real estate professionals nationwide to perform specialized inspection services and condition assessments on buildings and civil structures using industrial rope access techniques and direct-to-digital information systems. [Visit our website to learn more.](#)

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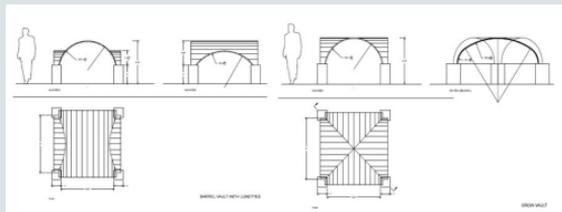
elevation drawings and management of digital photographs linked to the drawings and quantification of condition amounts and severities. [Read the full article.](#)

APT 2013 NYC - The Guastavino Vault Workshop



During the recent Association for Preservation Technology (APT) conference in New York City, Kent Diebolt, Kevin Dalton and Berta de Miguel, from Vertical Access, organized a [Hands-on Construction of "Guastavino" Thin Tile Vaults workshop](#). Other faculty fellows worked in conjunction with VA members: Benjamín Ibarra, Assistant Professor of Architecture UT Austin, Mallory Taub, an Energy Specialist at Arup in San Francisco, David López López, Architect and PhD candidate in the Block Research Group at ETH Zurich, Switzerland and Marta Domènech Rodríguez, PhD candidate in the Architectural Design Department at Technical University of Catalonia (UPC), Spain. The team was assisted by Ken and David Follet, from Precon Logstrat, LLC, "consultants with tools".

The workshop consisted of building two small tiled vaults: a groin vault and a barrel vault with lunettes. The vaults, of approximately 6x6 feet were built with tiles measuring 7 3/8" x 3 3/4" x 5/8" donated by [Boston Valley Terracotta](#).



The venue for the event was the atelier of [Ottavino Stone Corporation](#), kindly donated by that same corporation, which is celebrating their centennial this year. Additional funding came from the National Center for Preservation Training and Technology through APTI and Vertical Access LLC. We cannot thank our sponsors enough for their support!



The attendees were an interesting group of 21 people from different nationalities and backgrounds such as architects, material specialists, engineers, architectural conservators, preservationists and project managers.

❖ [Read about the two-day workshop](#) including how the vaults were built, and see photos that document the construction process.

❖ [Watch a video news story](#) about Rafael Guastavino that includes time-lapse footage from this workshop and interviews with Berta de Miguel and Kent Diebolt. The piece was produced by RTVE, a public broadcasting station from Spain.

ANSI Z359 Fall Protection Code Committee Meeting Update

During the week of October 21st, Keith Luscinski and Kelly Streeter traveled to Chicago to participate in the meeting of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z359 Fall Protection Code Committee. The full committee meeting, with over 100 participants (both full voting members and observers) took place on

Tuesday. On Wednesday and Thursday the subcommittee groups worked in smaller groups to push forward individual chapters of the standard.

Three chapters are nearing publication: Z359.11 Safety Requirements for Full Body Harnesses, Z359.15 Safety Requirements for Single Anchor Lifelines, and Fall Arrestors for Personal Fall Arrest Systems and Z359.18 Safety Requirements for Anchorage Connectors for Personal Fall Arrest Systems are all expected to be published within the next six months.

Vertical Access has been active in the Z359.8 subcommittee, Safety Requirements for Rope Access Systems for the last seven years. Kelly is also the chairperson (along with Steve Hudson of PMI Rope) of the Z359.9 subcommittee on Safety Requirements for Descent Controllers.

We participate in standards writing efforts to advocate for the inclusion of Industrial Rope Access equipment, systems and best practices in General Industry fall protection systems standards.

The latest version of ANSI / ANSS Z359 is [now available to read here](#) or for [purchase on Amazon.com](#) here.

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Two Projects Recognized with BD+C Reconstruction Awards



The six-year, \$61.7 million effort to restore the exterior of the **Conrad B. Duberstein U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse** in Brooklyn, NY has been recognized by BUILDING DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION and received a Silver Award in their 30th Annual Reconstruction Awards. **Goody Clancy** was the lead architect and Vertical Access was **exterior envelope consultant** on the team.



Additionally, the restoration of **Marble Collegiate Church** in New York, NY was also recognized and appears on the page facing the Courthouse. Vertical Access was consultant to **Helpern Architects** and conducted **preliminary investigations and documented existing condition** of the plaster ceiling of the sanctuary.

The full October 2013 issue BUILDING DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION is available [here](#).