

Greetings of the Season!

New Look for Vertical Access

We're excited to announce the launch of our newly updated logo. It's been optimized and streamlined for use in digital and online media, and we feel the new stylized look responds to the ever-evolving developments in our industry.

We've got lots of exciting projects in the queue for the new year, and look forward to hearing about yours too!

See you in 2016!

Conferences and Lectures

FEBRUARY

Scaffold Law Reform Day, February 2, Albany NY. Evan Kopelson attending.

Association for Preservation Technology Northeast Chapter Annual Meeting and Symposium, February 5, Newport RI.

Boston Society of Architects, February 11, Boston MA, Kelly Streeter presenting.

Sealant, Waterproofing & Restoration Institute (SWRI) 2016 Winter Technical Meeting, Feb 21-24, San Diego CA. Kelly Streeter presenting.

MARCH

Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) West Regional Conference - Booth #204, March 9 - 11, Sacramento CA, Keith Luscinski attending.

Association for Preservation Technology Delaware Valley Chapter - Documentation Data Workshop, March 11-12, Philadelphia PA.

International Concrete Restoration Institute (ICRI) 2016 Spring Convention, March 16-18, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

SPRAT Annual Conference, March 30 - April 1, Salt Lake City UT, Keith Luscinski attending.

APRIL

Architectural Iron & Steel in the 21st Century - Design and Preservation of Contemporary & Historic Architecture, April 2-3 2016, Cambridge, MA. Kelly Streeter presenting.

Industrial Rope Access vs. Conventional Fall Protection : National Safety Codes Evolve to Acknowledge Differences

Vertical Access has been a voting member of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) / American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Z359 Committee on Fall Protection since 2001. The mission statement of the committee in part is to "produce voluntary national consensus standards to protect workers at height".



Descent Controllers
Clockwise from lower left: DMM Double Stop, Rack, Petzl Stop, CMI Rescue 8, Petzl ID

VA's primary contribution to the Z359 committee has been to advocate for the inclusion of industrial rope access (IRA) techniques and equipment in this highly respected fall protection code. For the last three years, Kelly Streeter has been the chairperson responsible for developing the section of the code outlining requirements for descent

controllers. Although a critical component of equipment in the IRA work environment, descent controllers also play a role in other vertical environments including one-time-only rescue situations (from amusement park rides and ski lifts, for example). Keith Luscinski has been an active member of several committees.

Because industrial rope access techniques and equipment can differ significantly from those employed in conventional fall protection systems, a section of the fall protection code, titled Z359.8, Safety Requirements for Rope Access Systems was created. Under the chairmanship of Loui McCurley of the Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians (SPRAT) the subcommittee has labored to create a comprehensive IRA section of the code, a difficult task because of the significant departures in training requirements, work techniques and equipment selection from conventional fall protection.

Finally, after more than a decade of work, which saw much resistance to the inclusion of IRA in the ANSI Z359 code and many reversals of direction from the full committee, a resolution has seemingly been arrived upon.

At the recent October committee meeting in Chicago, a group of rope access professionals presented the proposed new IRA section of the code to the full committee. Afterwards, an idea was proposed that the Z359.8 standard continue to be a part of the Fall Protection Code but bear a number other than Z359. This would allow the rope access community to continue to draw upon the knowledge base of the full committee, while assuaging concerns that the equipment markings might be confused.

Read more.

Can You Identify This Building?

Test your knowledge of historic and iconic buildings in the U.S. (and beyond!) in this series of "guess the building" blog posts.

[American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works \(AIC\) 44th Annual Meeting and CAC 42nd Annual Conference](#), May 13-17, Montreal, Canada.

[Construction History Society of America \(CHSA\) 5th Biennial Meeting](#), May 26-29, Austin TX.

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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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This 25-foot-tall beauty stands atop one of the largest government buildings in the world, a Beaux Arts masterpiece completed in 1914. She holds a five-sectioned mural crown in her left hand, and a shield and laurel branch in her right. Where is this "fame"-ous statue? [More hints and the answer here](#).

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How the Tent of Tomorrow Got Its New Coat of Paint

One of the most notable structures of the 1964-65 New York World's Fair, and one of the few that still stands, is the New York State Pavilion. Looking to create a symbol of progress and to show off the state's status as host of the Fair, Governor Rockefeller commissioned Philip Johnson, who worked with structural engineer Lev Zetlin, to design the New York State Pavilion. The pavilion was in fact an assemblage of three separate structures: the open-air Tent of Tomorrow, three interconnected Observation Towers, and the circular Theaterama.



The Tent of Tomorrow was used for several years after the end of the Fair in 1965, first for music and art shows, then as the "Roller Round Skating Rink." In the summer of 1974, the City closed the tent structure and the multicolored roof panels were removed in 1976, leaving the structure in more or less its current state.

After sitting unused for over forty years, the Tent of Tomorrow is now showing life with a fresh new coat of paint. This is a great story of collaboration between the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation, the New York Structural Steel Painting Contractors Association, and the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Local 806. [Read about it here.](#)

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Exploring 3D Photogrammetry



Dozens of software options are available for stitching photographs into scaleable, 2D mosaics or 3D models. We've been experimenting with a few different platforms for generating 3D models using footage captured by our DJI Phantom UAV (drone) or by technicians on the ground. These outputs can be used as background drawings for a

hands-on survey using our direct-to-digital annotation system, [TPAS®](#), or to take measurements of inaccessible features such as antennas or finials. [Read more.](#)

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News Briefs

❖ Vertical Access is an approved vendor for inspection and testing services with the New York City School Construction Authority (NYCSCA).

❖ Kent Diebolt has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the [Lawsuit Reform Alliance of New York](#). The LRANY is a broad based coalition of New York business leaders, professionals and taxpayers who are committed to changing New York's burdensome and expensive legal system.

❖ Keith Luscinski conducted a research study titled, *Knotted Versus Sewn Terminations in Cow's Tails: A Comparison of Dynamic Performance and Static Strength Across Varying Lanyard Lengths*. The study is a comparison of dynamic performance and static strength across varying lanyard lengths and of the difference in performance between sewn and knotted cow's tails. The paper premiered at the 2015 International Technical Rescue Symposium. [Download the paper here.](#)

❖ Evan Kopelson and Nancy Hudson of Silman co-authored the presentation, *Investigating and Understanding the New York State Pavilion's Tent of Tomorrow and Observation Towers*, delivered at the NCPTT Symposium on the Preservation of Mid-Century Modern Structures held in St. Louis, MO. The 27-minute video describes the current conditions, highlights the importance of archival research in revealing construction methods and details, and addresses reuse challenges. [Watch the full presentation video here.](#)

❖ Kristen Olson, Evan Kopelson and Kent Diebolt attended the 2015 APT Annual Conference in Kansas City in November. [Read a recap of the event here.](#)