



### Happy 2011

Greetings and best wishes to you for the New Year from all of us at Vertical Access.

### New! Vertical Access Blog

We're pleased to announce the launch of our new blog! We'll be posting project updates and news, photos, videos, articles, presentations, and more, in between the release of the Quarterly Newsletter. Take a few minutes to visit and while you're there sign-up to receive notice of updates via email. [Go to blog.](#)

### Newsletter Archives

View previous Vertical Access Quarterlies [here.](#)

### Slide Show

[View a slideshow](#) of a selection of VAs investigative on historic buildings.



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## The Legacy of the Treasury Departments Office of the Supervising Architect: Three Federal Courthouse and Post Office Buildings



Over the past few years, Vertical Access has been part of project teams investigating and restoring three federal courthouse and post office complexes designed in the early 1890s. These structures, in Milwaukee, Buffalo and Brooklyn, exemplify the federal governments role in shaping the architectural character of our cities through the design and construction of monumental, ornately decorated buildings. Each of the three buildings was designed by a different supervising architect employing differing historicizing styles, but they have in common several notable features including a load-bearing masonry structure clad in granite, a prominent tower over a five-story base and a large central atrium.

Federal courthouses and post offices are one of the most ubiquitous building types from the late 19th century to have survived through the 20th century and become a significant part of our cultural heritage of the 21st century. These federal buildings are found throughout the country, in cities of all sizes.

Designed by The Department of the Treasury's Office of the Supervising Architect, which was established in 1852, the courthouses and post offices built by the federal government were intended to be symbolic of the prosperity of the cities in which they are located and representative of the strength of the federal government. To this day they often maintain a prominent position in the urban fabric of our cities. Although constructed to last for many generations and built of durable materials such as granite masonry, time has taken its toll on these landmark buildings, pointing to the need for their maintenance and preservation. [Read full article.](#)

### VA Partner Published in APT Bulletin



The Association for Preservation Technology has published an article by Kelly Streater in its 2010 Vol. XLI, No. 4 edition of the APT Bulletin The Journal of Preservation Technology.

Excerpt from Information Technology for Building Documentation ... Few building owners or managers appreciate how crucial the initial discovery phase of a facade-renovation project is to the overall success and bottom-line cost. Too often, discovery is abbreviated in the misguided interest of time and cost. [Read more.](#)

### Site Visit to the Hospital de Sant Pau in Barcelona



In mid-December of 2010, Kent travelled to Barcelona where he and Derek Trelstad, of Robert Silman Associates were given a tour of the [Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau](#) in the Eixample, near Gaudis Sagrada Familia. The Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau is one of two UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Barcelona designed by Lluís Domènech i Montaner, whom the [New York Times](#) recently described as

[Barcelonas Other Architect.](#)

The historic, modernist hospital complex has become redundant due to construction of a new building to the north of the site. The entire historic campus is currently either under renovation or scheduled for restoration. [Read full story with photos.](#)

### New Staff

VA welcomes a new Director of Business Development and Marketing, Franny King, who started September 2010. She brings seven years of experience working in marketing in the world of architecture, and will be working closely with the partners here to get the word out about our activities and accomplishments. She has set up the new blog we're launching with this newsletter and as a member of the [Society for Marketing Professionals](#) (SMPS) enjoys sharing marketing best practices at meetings with reps from A/E and consulting firms around NYS.