

Upcoming Events

❖ [Construction Owners Association of America - COAA](#)
Fall Workshop, September 22
Kelly Streeeter, PE presenting
Philadelphia, PA

❖ [Association of State Dam Safety Officials](#)
[Dam Safety 2011 Conference](#)
September 25 - 29
Vertical Access exhibiting
Washington DC

❖ [International Concrete Repair Institute - ICRI](#)
Connecticut Chapter Meeting,
November 2012
Kelly Streeeter PE, presenting
North Haven, CT

❖ [Association for Preservation Technology International - APTI](#)
APT Victoria 2011, October 11-16
Kent Diebolt, FAPT attending
Victoria, BC

❖ [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)
National Preservation Conference, Oct 19 - 22
Evan Kopelson, AIC attending
Buffalo, NY

Staff News



Berta de Miguel Alcalá, has tested to and was certified as a SPRAT Level 1 rope technician.

Berta is a visiting architect from Valencia, Spain interning with Vertical out of our NYC office. She works on speciality investigation and inspection projects, and also joins the team at site walk-thrus and meetings in advance of potential new projects.

Congratulations Berta!

"High and Mighty" - Cornell Alumni Magazine highlights Vertical Access



The leadership team of Vertical Access - all of whom are alumni of Cornell University - are highlighted in a

feature article, [High and Mighty](#), published in the Sept/Oct edition of *Cornell Alumni Magazine*. Personal accounts and inside stories from projects past are woven together through interviews with Kent Diebolt '82, Evan Kopelson '94, and Kelly Streeeter '97. [Read the full](#)

Free Online Webinar: OnSite Digital Information Capture



The efficient collection of conditions data on-site is critical during the early stages of a project. Decisions made about treatments are made based on these initial evaluations and observations and they must be reliable and in a compatible format that is usable by the entire team of design professionals and project stakeholders.



Vertical Access has developed a sophisticated method of collecting this data called TPAS (Tablet PC Annotation System). TPAS uses AutoCAD functions and formats you probably already know. It's loaded into a ruggedized tablet PC linked to a digital camera along with project drawings. TPAS lets you experience total digital inter-connectivity on site by entering graphical and numerical data, photographs and notes directly into your existing files.

TPAS enables you to...

- Use standard and customizable block libraries and attributes to create customized documentation of conditions
- Gain maximum insight into conditions on-site, digitally
- Differentiate your service
- Establish or maintain client relationships by providing higher quality, value-added reports

[Register for our free webinar](#) to see how TPAS can work for you with this live demo and Q+A forum.

DATE: Tuesday, October 4, 2011

TIME: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT

[> Reserve your webinar seat here.](#)

After registering you will receive a confirmation email with information about how to login to the webinar. Hope you are able to make it!

❖ [Read more about TPAS](#)

VA Recognized by GSA for Role in Award Winning Project



VA was honored to receive recognition and a 2010 citation from the General Services Administration (GSA) for our role in the **Peter W. Rodino Federal Building Modernization Project**, Newark, NJ.

Every two years GSA celebrates the accomplishments of architects, engineers, landscape architects, urban designers, interior designers, artists, conservationists, and preservationists who create and safeguard the nation's

[article.](#)

landmarks. A multi-disciplinary jury of private-sector design, art, and construction professionals selected the winning projects from 115 entries.

About Vertical Access

Vertical Access provides specialized building inspections, testing services, and condition reports for architects, engineers, and conservators utilizing efficient, lightweight rigging systems and industrial rope access techniques. Our staff includes preservationists with backgrounds in construction, structural engineering, architectural conservation and nondestructive evaluation of structures. [Visit our website to learn more.](#)

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and receive news and updates via email in between the publishing of the Quarterly.

Newsletter Archives

View earlier *Vertical Access* *Quarterlies* [here](#).

About the Rodino project

This major design upgrade to the Rodino Federal Building includes constructing a new glass curtain wall over the existing precast façade. VA was contracted by the project's architect, [Dattner Architects](#), to inspect and map all cracks in the façade and to determine whether they were static or dynamic on the building's exterior in the initial phase of this envelope design project. The map of existing conditions which included photographs and graphical annotations was created using [TPAS](#) software in conjunction with AutoCAD.

Kent Diebolt represented VA at the GSA design awards ceremony earlier this year at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington DC.

✦ [2010 Design Awards Book \(PDF\)](#)

✦ [Rodino Federal Building - VA Project Profile](#)

Project Highlight: The Occoquan Dam in Fairfax, Virginia



VA was retained by [Olson Engineering](#) to assist with nondestructive testing (NDT) at the Occoquan Dam in Fairfax County, Virginia in August. The purpose of the project was to perform an investigation of the dam's North abutment (side spillway) using Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) to determine the rebar size and spacing in this portion of the dam.

The team accessed the dam by pontoon boat, reaching the upstream shell, where we tied off the boat and staged equipment. Keith Luscinski and Kevin Dalton proceeded to install several temporary anchors into the vertical surfaces of the north abutment so that we could descend safely to the various work areas on the spillway.

Earthquake of August 17, 2011

We were eating our lunches in the boat on the first day of work when it began to shake and rattle and bubbles came up all around us from the bottom of the reservoir. We all looked around trying to figure out who was jumping up and down on the boat. About a minute later we received a report from Fairfax Water that the shaking had been an earthquake. Those standing on the dam didn't feel a thing, continuing cell phone conversations like nothing had happened while the rest of us looked around, confused.

After the earthquake commotion died down, we proceeded on with the job, guiding the GPR antenna down the dam on a 2.5' grid, carefully guiding the equipment on the slippery sloped concrete surface. The antenna was connected to a data acquisition computer which was controlled at a flat area of the dam by Larry Olson and Aaron Homer from Olson Engineering.

✦ [Visit our blog to see a slide show of images from this project.](#)

