

Spring Greetings ~

Our project highlight for this edition takes place on the Irondequoit Bay Bridge during one of the coldest periods of this past winter. But even during such cold weather, we had to adjust our schedule in consideration of the nesting patterns of the peregrine falcons that made the bridge their home. It wasn't the first time we've encountered falcons on a project.



While working on the First Church of Christ, Scientist Administration Building in Boston we had to tape predator eyes on our helmets to prevent the nesting falcons from attacking us.

There are a number of live streaming websites to watch falcon nests up-close. The [FalconCam](#) in Rochester, NY follows every move of a family of peregrines nesting on the Times Square Building.

Photo by Vertical Access

Conferences and Lectures

[42nd Annual Meeting - American Institute for Conservation](#), May 28-31, San Francisco, CA.

[SWRI Fall Technical Meeting](#), September 20 - 23, Chicago, IL. Kelly Streeter presenting, *Mechanical Anchor Strength in Historic Masonry Materials*.

[Dam Safety 2014 - American Society of Dam Safety Officers](#), September 21-25, San Diego, CA. VA exhibiting at booth #436.

[Association for Preservation Technology International \(APT\) Annual Conference](#), October 26-30, Quebec City. Evan Kopelson presenting with Janet Null of [Argos Architecture & Preservation](#).

[ANSI Z359 Fall Meeting](#), October 28-30, Chicago, IL. Kelly Streeter attending.

About Vertical Access

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: Irondequoit Bay Bridge



Vertical Access winter projects are often trying. The days are short, and the freezing cold weather conditions mean reduced dexterity and poor battery life in our tablets and cameras - all combining to increase the difficulty of a project that might otherwise be pleasant in the spring or autumn. Even compared to most winter weather projects, the Biennial Inspection of the Irondequoit Bay Bridge was extreme.

For four weeks in late February and March, we worked over the solidly-frozen Irondequoit Bay of Lake Ontario assisting [DiDonato Associates](#). While fishermen below peered through holes in the ice, engineers from DiDonato inspected the upper areas of the bridge from under-bridge inspection units (UBIU) and we used other methods to move along thousands of feet of steel I-beams at the lower portion of the bridge. Most mornings we were greeted with sub-zero temperatures. One morning we sat in our truck, waiting for the wind chill to climb above -20°F. It never did. [Continue reading . . .](#)

When the World Went to Queens - Celebrating the New York World's Fair



We are now living in the future envisioned at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair, which opened 50 years ago last week and attracted over 50 million visitors to Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in Queens. With the theme "peace through understanding," the fair promised a utopian, technologically-driven "near tomorrow." For many fairgoers, especially those who were children when they attended, the playful, exuberant architecture had as much of an impact on their expectations for the future as did exhibits promising undersea colonies and driverless cars. [Read our special two-part tribute, "When the World Went to Queens".](#)

Vertical Access first performed work at the New York State Pavilion in 2006, and our team has returned several times to assist with existing condition surveys and lighting replacement, in collaboration with The Sparks Electric Company, RTKL Associates, Acuren, and Robert Silman Associates. The Pavilion is owned by the City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation. For more information, see our project profiles for the [Tent of Tomorrow](#) and the [Observation Towers](#).

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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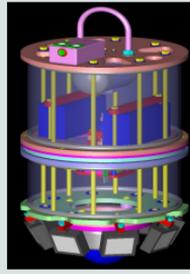
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Newsletter Archives

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



Mapping Inaccessible Spaces with The ShaftCam



Vertical Access is excited to announce the newest addition to our suite of non-destructive testing (NDT) and remote visual inspection services. Our new ShaftCam is gyroscopically stabilized and transmits real-time high-definition video to a remote viewing station. Some of the inspection locations we encounter are too tight or too hazardous for a technician to work safely. The

ShaftCam is specifically designed to access those areas: chimneys, shafts, ductwork, tanks and enclosed spaces with toxic or low-oxygen environments.

The ShaftCam is the ideal tool for:

- Mapping shaft penetrations
- Surveying duct interiors
- Quickly providing a permanent, visual record of existing chase conditions
- Providing a way to visually inspect locations that are inaccessible to personnel



CASE STUDY The Woolworth Building

We were retained by [Alchemy Properties](#) and [The Witkoff Group](#) to assist with mapping of ductwork in The Woolworth Building. Alterations made to the building's HVAC system over several decades had made existing ductwork schematics inaccurate and incomplete. The

challenge was to document the routing of ductwork and electrical conduit inside an unlit and inaccessible 300-foot tall shaft.

Using the ShaftCam we conducted a visual inspection via an interactive, live-feed view of the ducts. Deliverables included updated schematic drawings and video. [Read project profile](#) (pdf).