

Summer Greetings ~



This issue's feature story focuses on capitol buildings. You'll find links to info about restoration projects in

15 states, notes about some of the challenges we encounter when surveying domes and an amazing animation of the phases of the massive restoration of the US Capitol that's underway now.

We've had the opportunity to work on ten capitol buildings. It's been a privilege to get up close and see, touch, inspect and document these monumental structures, and to be part of the teams charged with preserving them.

Conferences and Lectures

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

[Dam Safety 2014 - Association of State Dam Safety Officers](#), September 21-25, San Diego, CA. VA exhibiting at booth #436. Kent Diebolt attending.

[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 and Keith Lusinski presenting.

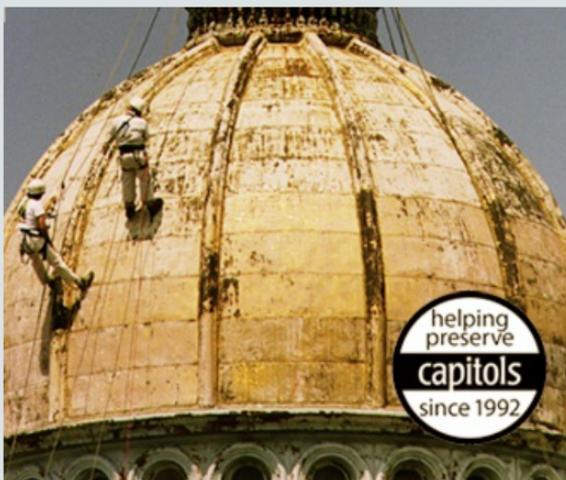
[12th North American Masonry Conference](#), May 17-20, 2015, Denver, CO. Kelly Streeter presenting *Mechanical Anchor Strength in Stone Masonry*.

[5th International Congress on Construction History](#), June 3-7, 2015, Chicago, IL.

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](#)

Capitol Projects



New Jersey State House in Trenton, NJ. Photo by [Jon Reis Photography](#)

Capitols are among our favorite types of buildings to work on, and since our first investigation of the Massachusetts State House twenty years ago, we've had the pleasure of visiting ten of them - eight state capitols in addition to the U.S. Capitol and Canada's Newfoundland and Labrador Confederation Building. Vertical Access returned to the Michigan State Capitol recently to inspect the dome with Quinn Evans Architects where we first worked with them and The Christman Company in 2005. (See [Capitol Dome Gets a Checkup](#), [Lansing State Journal](#), Aug 7, 2014)

Capital Projects for Capitol Buildings

Monumental public buildings often have monumental price tags for restoration, with deferred maintenance being a major cost driver. Some of the challenges for building professionals working on state capitols include ever-changing occupant needs, increased standards for safety and security, accessibility, energy efficiency, and technology upgrades. Facilities maintenance was put on the back burner during the Great Recession, but many states are now moving ahead with repair and restoration projects. State capitols in the news for recent, ongoing, or planned repair and restoration campaigns include [Arkansas](#), [Colorado](#), [Connecticut](#), [Illinois](#), [Kansas](#), [Maine](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), [Mississippi](#), [Missouri](#), [Montana](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Oregon](#), [South Dakota](#), and the [U.S. Capitol](#).

[Read the full article here.](#)

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.



HINT: This iconic building has undergone several expansion campaigns since construction first began in the eighteenth century. It now contains over 600 rooms totaling 1.5 million square feet of space, and it is visited by millions

[learn more.](#)

or people annually. [Get the answer here.](#)

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Staff Updates



VA welcomes Joe Haun to the team. Joe's prior experience includes ten years with the National Park Service as a project team leader on special architectural and engineering projects where he was responsible for field surveys, documentation, planning, and preparing cost estimations. Joe has an MS in historic preservation from the University of Vermont and a BA from Bucknell University, and he is a SPRAT certified Level I technician. Welcome Joe!

❖ Joe Haun and Kristen Olson completed a 16-hour suspended scaffold user course at TSC Training Academy in Long Island City, Queens. Using suspended scaffolds requires safety procedures similar to those used in industrial rope access, including daily inspections of equipment, careful selection of tieback and lifeline anchors, and generous safety factors for all components of the system. This course is required for anyone working on a suspended scaffold or performing industrial rope access work in New York City. [Read more about the training.](#)

❖ Keith Luscinski attended the SPRAT 2014 Summer Standards Meeting in Denver, CO where he was appointed chair of the Research Grant Committee. The goal of the committee is to drive innovation in the rope access community. Keith is working to develop a grant application process for members to apply for research funding. [Read more about the meeting.](#)

On The Ropes: Seeing New York City Up Close



Berta de Miguel inspecting the Municipal Building in Manhattan. Photo: Adrienne Grunwald for The Wall Street Journal

Wall Street Journal writer Kathleen Lucadamo has been interested in doing a story on Vertical Access since she first heard about the type of work we do. Determined to do it, she patiently waited for many months until just the right opportunity arose to join us on a project at the Municipal Building in Manhattan to witness at-height rope access work for herself. The result was this article in the July 21 edition of the NY Real Estate section - read it here: [On The Ropes: Seeing New York City Up Close.](#)