



HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE

• Renovation Update for December 2010 •

DURING DECEMBER 2010, the Renovation Team began improvements to the fire alarm system and life safety improvements. Handrails were added to the main stairs connecting the Pillars of Charity to the Banquet Hall and on the stairs linking the Portrait Gallery to the basement. Doors were added at stairs to segregate the mezzanine and basement level to limit smoke migration. For the fire alarm system additional detection and annunciation devices were added in the main corridors and assembly spaces including the Banquet Hall and Atrium.



Center handrails were added to the stairs connection the Pillars of Charity with the Banquet Hall. The center rails will receive decorative finials to match the side handrails at the top of each center post.



Close up of the center post and bracket supporting the railing. The detailing is similar to and respectful of Pope's detailing on the side rails.



New steel handrail on the stairs leading from the Portrait Gallery down to the basement level provides support where people walk on the stairs.



New center handrail added to the bottom run of stairs connecting the landing to the basement level. The design of the center rail is based upon the adjacent wall mounted rails.



New doors were added at the basement level to separate the main stair from the basement level to minimize smoke migration should there be a fire event.



Architect Graham Davidson, FAIA holds open the new door isolating the mezzanine level from the NW stairs. The unpainted brick on the left of the photo is the location of the exploration of the brick wall thickness last summer.



Sean Graystone, 33° Grand Cross reviews the new ceiling installed in the northwest spiral stair at the Temple Room landing. As part of this improvement, new lights will be added to the stairs.



A hole was cut in the ceiling of the Portrait Gallery to allow installation of new fire alarm audio-visual device to alert visitors and staff to an emergency. Similar penetrations were made in the corridors outside the Burns and International Libraries.

