

HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE

• Renovation Update for January 2012 •

DURING JANUARY 2012, the Renovation Team worked with conservators to complete the repair of the earthquake damage. Paint analysis for the ceiling of the Executive Chamber was completed. Water service calculations for fire suppression and domestic use were completed and submitted to the city. Preliminary layouts for services spaces such as kitchen and mechanical spaces were developed this month.



The August 2011 earthquake caused delamination of the leather panel at the door to the Temple Room. Sections of the bronze moldings were removed from the top and sides of the leather panels as needed to provide access for treatment by removing face screws.



It was found that the leather had been directly applied to wood framing in-situ and was not installed on a separate panel. All leather was extremely desiccated and vulnerable to tearing. As such, it was decided to treat the panels in place rather than by removing them in order to reduce risk of introducing further damage.



Friable material and torn edges were consolidated with B-72 and BEVA gel to solidify the leather at the edges to be re-tacked. As much as possible, these repairs were located in areas to be hidden behind the molding after reinstallation.



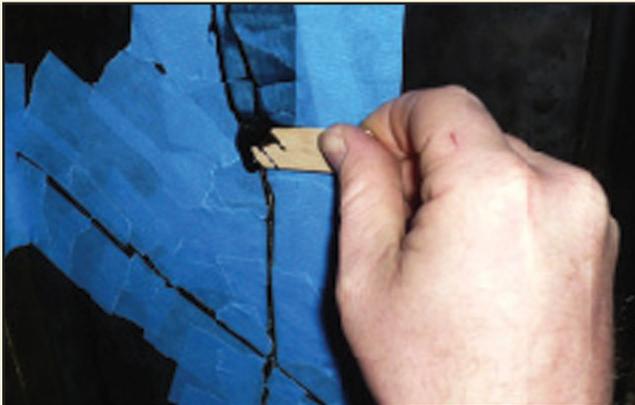
Linen strips were applied to the inner faces of the leather with BEVA gel adhesive to reinforce worn and brittle sections of the panel. The linen was extended a minimum of 2" beyond the panel edge and wood strips were tacked up to compress them while the adhesive set. Plastic sheeting was used to protect the leather during this work.



When the backings were dried, the leather panels were carefully stretched as much as possible without risking introducing additional tears and tacked with copper upholstery brads. It was possible to relay the exterior leather panel to its original position; however, the previous repairs—the nailer strip and a tack that had been added to the lower proper left edge at the tassels—had deformed and stretched the panel to the point where it did not allow it to fully return to the original contour.



Areas of loss along the top left edge of the interior panel were patched with B-72 bulked with silicon microballoon and color-matched with mineral pigments. The fill was laid in with spatulas and trowelled to create an even surface. The color was adjusted with pigmented wax as needed.



At either side of the doors to the Temple Room, cracks were found in the marble as a result of the earthquake. Fills were installed to the small crack losses in the black stone panels on either side of the door using a bulked epoxy color-matched to the stone. The surrounding areas were masked off to prevent any overruns of the patching material. The epoxy was then injected into the cracks and cleaned back with a razor after it had achieved an initial set.



The process was repeated as needed to bring the fills flush with the stone face. The fills were only dressed with the razor and then wiped with solvents to avoid scratching and damaging the stone. The masking was removed, and the areas were cleaned of any adhesive residue with solvents and rags.

Photographs and text of the leather and marble repairs from treatment report prepared by Conservation Solutions Incorporated.

