



# HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE

## • Renovation Update for May/June 2010 •

**D**URING MAY AND JUNE 2010, the Renovation Team focused on investigating the modifications necessary to improve life safety, accessibility and egress as well as renovate the building mechanical and electrical systems. The investigations have allowed the team to better understand the construction of the building so as design moves forward, the systems can be better integrated into the existing building. The following are but a sample of the investigations completed to date. The House of the Temple Investigation Report documents all of the investigations and findings.



Investigations to determine the thickness and composition of the masonry walls surrounding the spiral stair in the NW corner were conducted. A through-wall penetration of approximately 2-feet by 2-feet by the depth of the wall was accomplished at the basement level and at the mezzanine level. The brick walls are approximately 33-inches thick solid masonry.



Wells were installed in the north lawn and in the southeast parking area to determine the level of ground water relative to the basement and boiler room levels. Water was found to be at approximately the level of the basement.



As part of the elevator proposal to connect the Temple Room, Atrium, and Banquet Hall, the SE shaft was investigated. Piping, electrical wiring and abandoned ductwork was visible in the shaft.



The ceilings of the Ground Floor level were opened to determine how fire suppression, electrical and duct work systems could be run. In the Burns Library, the ceiling is tight to the underside of the north/south concrete encased steel beams.



In the Burns Library, the penetration also allowed the team to find the source of the plaster deterioration; failed/corroded pipes from the bathroom on the Entrance Level had allowed moisture to saturate the ceiling of the Burns Library. The failed piping is currently being capped/replaced.



The footings were found 22'-3" below grade. The moat wall is composed of concrete with waterproofing on the lawn side protected by brick veneer. The soil was damp throughout the investigation but became more saturated about 19-feet below grade (consistent with the piezometer readings).



Water penetrations into the building have been significant over the years. One area of persistent leaks have been into the Ground Floor Men's Room. Moisture from the Main Entrance Stairs has penetrated through the wall below the sphinx and saturated the plaster below in the Ground Floor Men's Room. A water test was undertaken to find and identify the source. Measures to eliminate the leaks will be incorporated into the building renovation.



As part of the investigation of the mechanical ductwork system, several ducts were opened and the associated brick chases were measured. A significant number of the original ducts were capped and abandoned in place. Removing the existing, abandoned ductwork will allow the routing of the new. Existing ductwork is not insulated and cannot be reused. The existing chases matched the dimensions on drawings almost exactly giving the team confidence in the original drawings.

