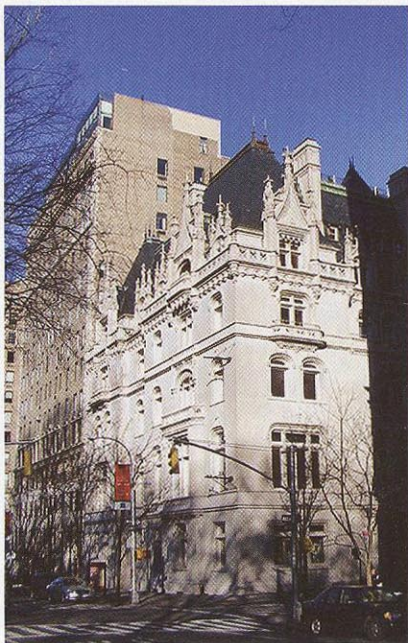
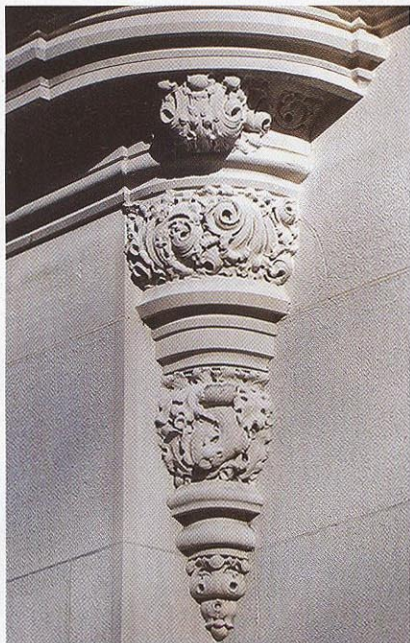


INDUSTRY NEWS

FORM & FUNCTION

Restoring a Jewish jewel



The Jewish Museum's exterior recently underwent significant restoration of its façade, finials, and roofing. Inside the building, 4000 years of Jewish art and cultural pieces remain intact. Roof restoration will help keep them that way.

Photos courtesy Seaboard Weatherproofing & Restoration

Located along New York City's Museum Mile, The Jewish Museum is home to more than 26,000 cultural treasures. Since its opening in an elegant mansion in 1947, the museum added a sculpture court in 1959 and expanded gallery space in both 1963 and 1989.

Despite the successful preservation of the museum's French Gothic château-style exterior, the time had come for restoration work. Exposure to the city's weather and grime had taken a toll on the exterior—stones in the limestone façade were broken or loose, finials were cracked and tarnished, and the slate mansard roof was leaking.

The restoration project, under Walter B. Melvin Architects, involved replacing damaged limestone blocks with milled or hand-carved stones that matched the façade's original aesthetic. The finials were also replaced. After dirt and carbon were cleaned off the exterior with a chemical-free fine water mist, the structure was waterproofed.

Roof repair to prevent further water intrusion was perhaps the most challenging component of the project. To fix the underlying roof structure, the tiles on the original mansion were removed and reset with minimal slate replacement. The tiers and setbacks had to be piped off, to allow workers to reach and remove the slate, and conduct repairs.

After undergoing this work for about a year, the Jewish Museum was restored to its original splendor.