

Front and center

State-of-the-art waterjet process gives Utah's state logo one-of-a-kind look

By Ron Treister

An extensive group of engineers, consultants and other specialists were assembled to address the complex renovation/restoration needs of the historic Utah State Capitol. The project included base isolation and seismic upgrade to the overall building, including the dome and rotunda. As part of the seismic upgrade, an elevated terrace was added to the building.



FRONT AND CENTER

Because the state capitol building is situated on a bona fide seismic zone, the exterior stone and terra cotta were reinforced to seismic standards and repaired or replaced as needed. The mechanical, electrical, and data and communications systems were completely replaced.

The interior restoration included replacement of skylights and reestablishment of original spaces, colors and ornamentation. The Capitol, which was divided into four restoration zones, was connected to the East-West buildings through a below podium tunnel.

To add even more closure and a sense of visual panache to the building, the State of Utah's "seal" was created via a state-of-the-art waterjet process, resulting in one of the most brilliant representations of a state's logo ever to be seen.

More than 1,000 pieces of 25 different color representations of natural stone (and three types of metal) were precisely cut to fit together



as a giant, precision puzzle. This circular logo with a diameter of 20 feet was first sent out for bid in early 2013. The building team was exploring ways to best achieve this landmark, full color visual. Ultimately, the project was awarded to Wisconsin Terrazzo of Onalaska, Wis., and Creative Edge Master Shop of Fairfield, Iowa.

After the official artwork of the logo was sent to the fabricator, it was scanned using cutting-edge technology that resulted in a computer's interpretation of what color stone, in what size and shape, should be placed in specific positions to optimize visual perfection.

Of the stone material that was selected, the most prominent decorative element, the "beehive," was represented by an American stone, Utah's own Honeycomb Onyx. The fabrication technique blended waterjet-cut stone and metals, along with poured-in-place epoxy terrazzo. After all materials were set in place, the floor logo was polished to a shining patina and is permanently bonded to the substrate.

"We went all over the country looking

for the right stone material to be used in the Utah Statehouse rotunda," says Jim Belllove, founder and CEO of Creative Edge Master Show.

"Our stone logo re-creation had to be spot-on relative to which colors of stone were to be used. We just didn't want to select stone that meets the criteria of Utah's state logo colors; we wanted durable stone that would stand up to daily foot-traffic for the next 100 years."

Keeper of the seal

The Lieutenant Governor of Utah, Spencer J. Cox, also is the official "Keeper of the Seal." Cox was on-hand to verify that all details and requirements were met at the dedication, Jan. 4, 2016... which was the 100th anniversary of Utah's statehood.

The logo, which is located under the main floor of the rotunda, in Utah's "Hall of Governors," will be seen and appreciated by hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

The Utah State Capitol Preservation Board oversaw all elements of the renovation and the artwork/selection of materials for this emblem. Director Allyson Gamble was at the helm from start to finish, ensuring that every square inch of the major renovation was done to the highest standards and original intent. Stephanie Angelides, collections manager of the board, also was a major contributor relative to the floor emblem's authenticity and historical antecedents.

"The unique aspect of this project was the exact matching of the red, white and blue flag colors in terrazzo with the combination of waterjet cut stone and poured and polished terrazzo," says Jason Zarwell of Wisconsin Terrazzo. "All of this worked very well and I can assure everyone that this will be a permanent, enduring feature of this beautiful building." **CCR**

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