

Jewel on the Hill

Thomas Hunter Hall is the surviving wing of a larger structure designed by architect Charles “C.B.J.” Snyder. When built, it was one of a dozen hospitals, homes, orphanages and other institutions devoted to the civic good on Lenox Hill on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Mr. Snyder’s work bears some of his trademarks: the rooms are high and light with large banks of windows. Three large cathedral windows at the top levels are visible from the street. The rooms that they illuminate, originally gymnasiums and a lunch room, are now dance studios.

The Hall was intended to accommodate the elementary and high schools associated with Normal College, established in 1869 to train female high school graduates for teaching positions, and so named because its goal was to establish norms for the profession. (Today, the elementary school and the high school still exist at a different location, and are now called the Hunter College Campus Schools.)

The building opened in 1913, and the next year Normal College was renamed Hunter College, after its founding president, Thomas Hunter. (Later the building became Thomas Hunter Hall.) During Hunter's tenure as president of the school, Hunter became known for its impartiality regarding race, religion, ethnicity, financial or political favoritism; its pursuit of higher education for women; its high entry requirements; and its rigorous academics.

Thomas Hunter Hall is now the oldest building in Hunter's campus. Years of neglect made it necessary to erect a sidewalk bridge around the base of the structure in 2005 for the protection of pedestrians. A \$13,000,000 repair project on the building was initiated by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York in 2007 and is now complete.

The exterior restoration included structural stabilization and then extensive repairs to the parapets and turrets. A terra cotta cornice imitating limestone which had been previously removed was reconstructed. Existing limestone was saved where possible. Limestone patching was done in some ornate areas of the façade, with dutchman repair used for the flat areas. A large portion of the façade was re-pointed and a full cleaning of the building was completed. Approximately 340 deteriorating windows and window frames that were original to the building have been replaced with double-glazed, thermally efficient windows that conform to NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission standards. In addition, major repairs have been made to the original slate roof. The flat roofs were all redone which will lead to significant heating and cooling efficiencies.

Surrounded now by the modernist buildings of the present-day Hunter College campus, the refurbished Thomas Hunter Hall stands as a compelling reminder of the institutions' origins, and the values that have enabled it to flourish for a century.

Sources: New York Times, 4/20/08; Wikipedia entry on Hunter College; Hunter College website; Superstructures Engineers + Architects and Li/Saltzman Architects





Shifting limestone units in the turrets had to first be stabilized for safety and to preserve original stone to use in reconstruction.



Turrets were deconstructed to prepare for reassembly with limestone units carefully numbered and stored for reinstallation after the masonry base was reconstructed.



New stainless steel pins and copper flashing installed under reset original stone in turret.



Reconstructed and cleaned turrets.



Before restoration, deteriorated metal roof and flashing over missing cornice and cracked stucco covering "scars" where original terra cotta cornice had been removed



Reconstructing cornice -- underside done with glass fiber reinforced concrete. Photo research was conducted to reproduce design of original terra cotta cornice.



Lead coated copper roof was installed on top side of the new cornice.



Completed roof over new cornice.



Completed cornice with GFRP replicating original terra cotta cornice details.



Parapets before reconstruction.



Parapets during reconstruction.



Parapets during reconstruction.



Typical existing condition: limestone deterioration at rusting iron cramp



Dutchman repair to limestone. Patching was done in more ornate areas.



The scope of work on this restoration included a full cleaning of the building's limestone.



Leaded window before restoration.



Leaded window after restoration. For the leaded glass windows, work included restoration of rusted sheet metal frames with sheet metal and epoxy patches, reglazing of zinc-leaded panels with new lead comes and new clear glass, restoration of steel pivot sash, reinstallation of re-leaded panels.



Wood window before restoration. All original wood window frames were restored by epoxy consolidation and installation of wood dutchmen, as well as the fabrication and installation of new wood sash with clear Low-E insulated glass for energy efficiency.



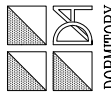
Wood window after restoration. The window restoration work encompassed thirty different window types, including arched-head double-hung wood windows, monumental leaded-glass windows set in sheet metal frames intended to imitate stone Gothic tracery, wood pivot-sash, and steel fire-rated windows.



Slate roof and copper gutter before restoration.



Slate roof after restoration. Original building fabric was retained where possible.



DORMITORY AUTHORITY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ONE PENN PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY
10119-0098



SUPERSTRIBURES
ARCHITECTS
110 WEST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10018

IN SERVICE OF THE ARCHITECT
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK

| NO | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|----|----------|----------------|
| 01 | 05/01/09 | ISSUED FOR BID |
| 02 | 02/12/09 | FOR DIMENSION |
| 03 | 02/12/09 | FOR DIMENSION |

HUNTER COLLEGE
THOMAS HUNTER HALL
930 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10065
EAST ELEVATION

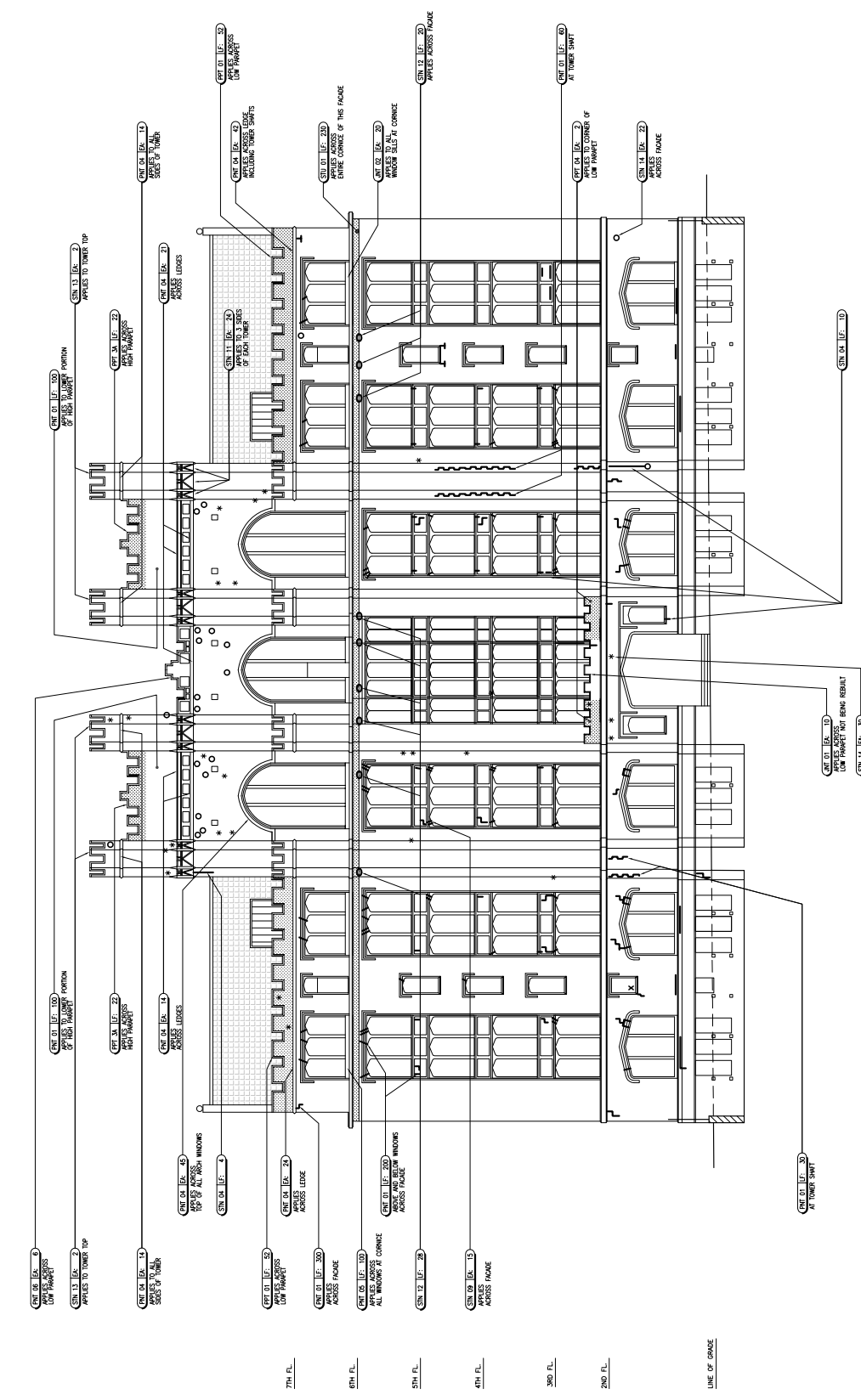
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| SSSY # | 100-00000 |
| DRAWN BY | LS |
| CHECKED BY | LS |
| DATE | 10/10/09 |

SHEET #

A-004.00

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REMARKS/LEGEND:
* INDICATES STN 14
+ INDICATES PNT 01
o INDICATES STN 14 (AT PREVIOUS PATCH)



EAST ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

| NO. | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
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| 05/12/09 | LOGS REVISIONS | |
| 05/12/09 | LOGS REVISIONS | |

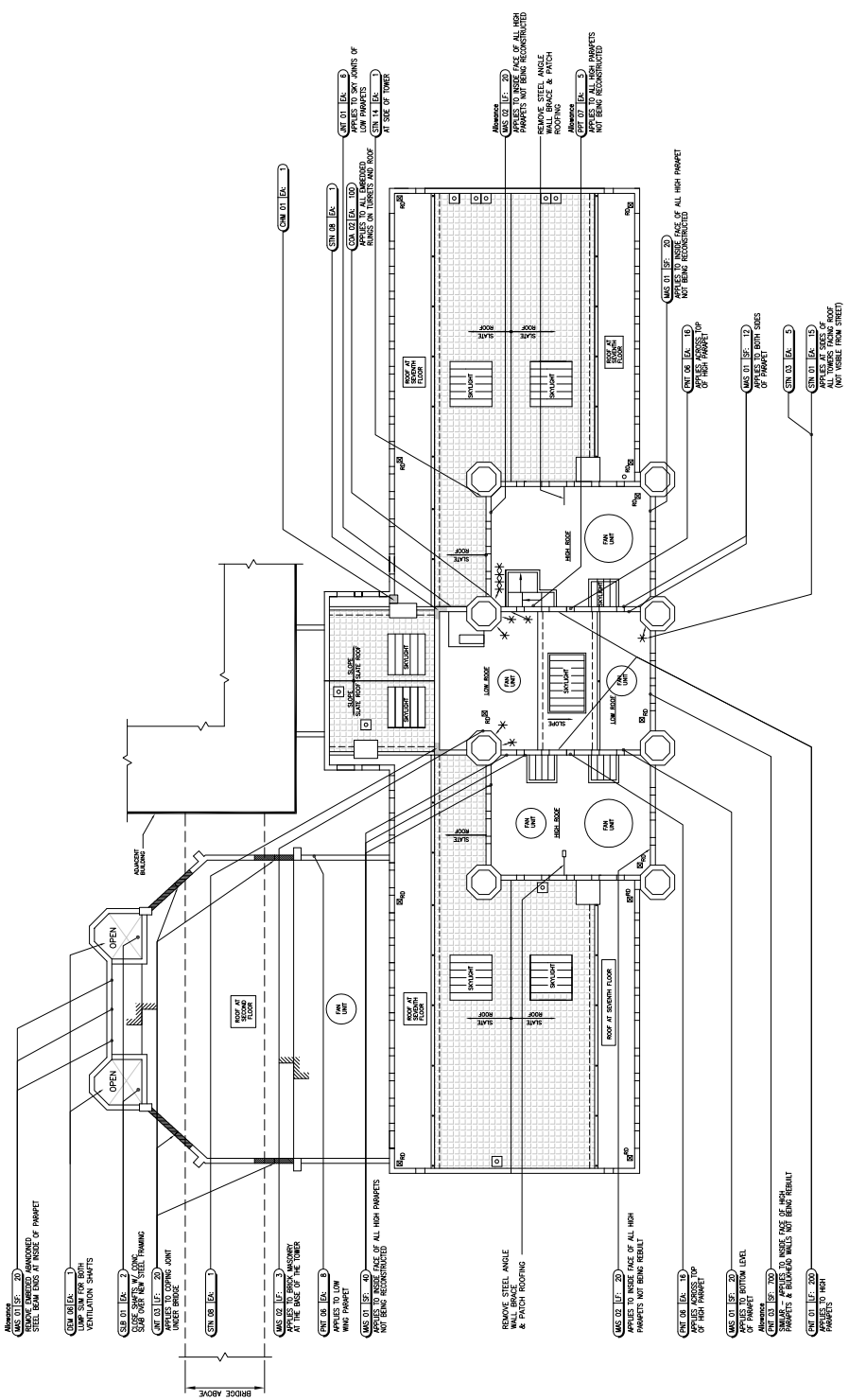
HUNTER COLLEGE
THOMAS HUNTER HALL
930 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10065
ROOF PLAN
MASONRY REPAIRS

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| CADSW | 1/27/09/0000 |
| ISSY # | 1000000 |
| DRAWN BY | LS |
| CHECKED BY | LS |
| DATE | 10/20/09 |

SHEET #
A-005.00

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REPAIR/LEAKS: * INDICATES STAIN



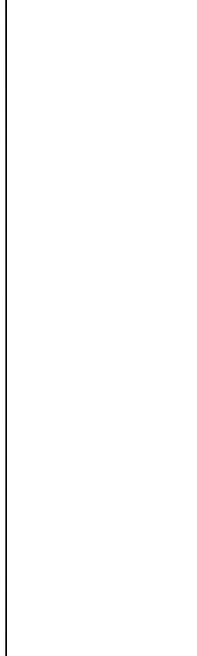
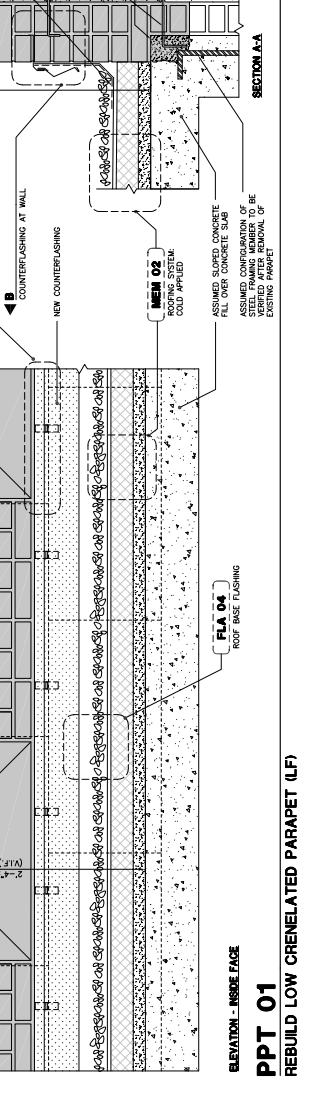
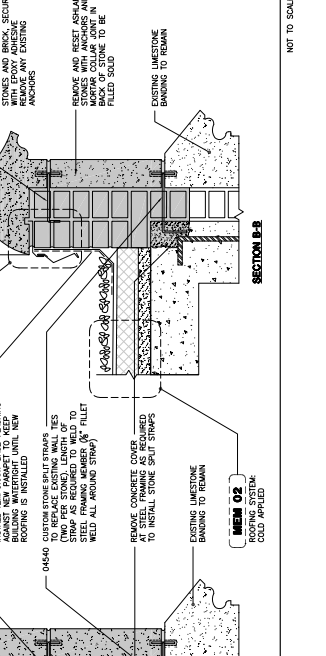
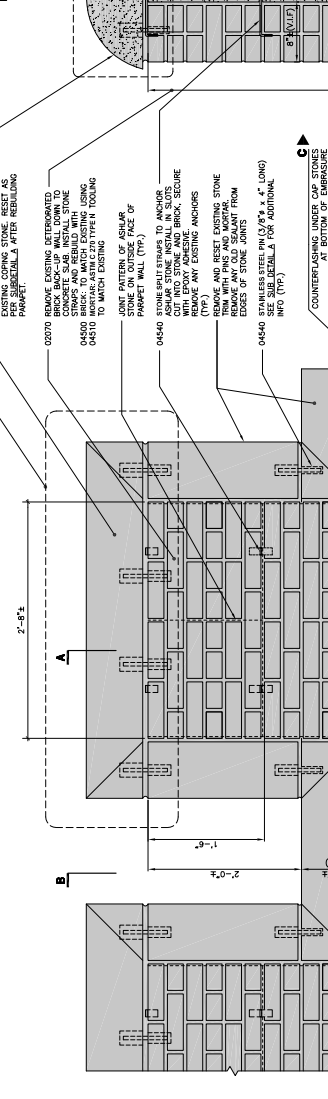
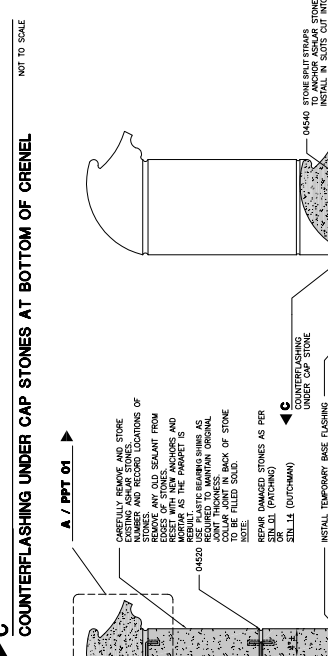
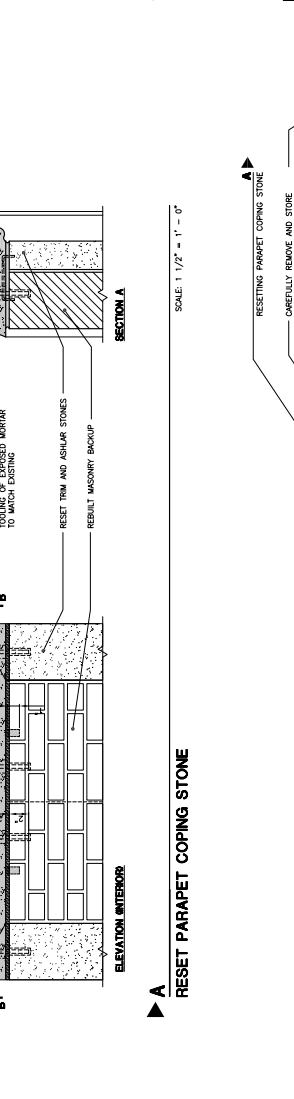
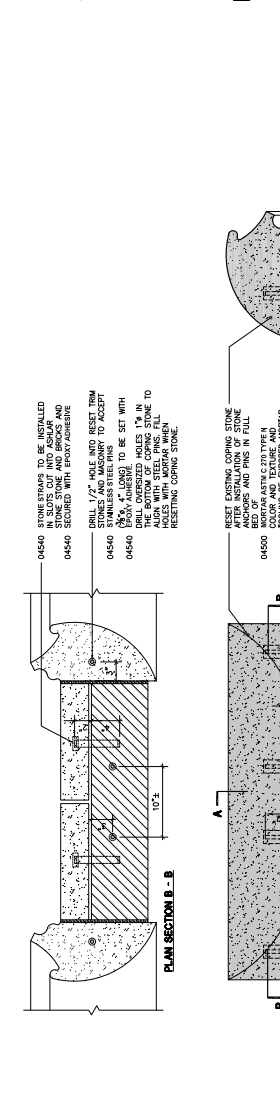
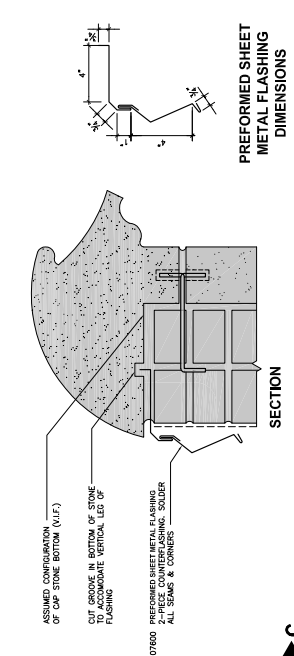
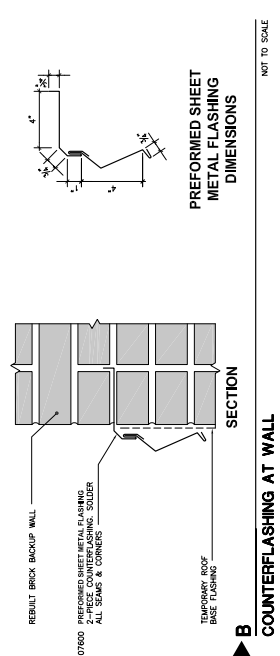
ROOF PLAN - MASONRY REPAIRS

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

| NO. | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|-----|----------|-----------------|
| 01 | 02/12/10 | ISSUED FOR BID |
| 02 | 02/12/10 | LOGS SUBMISSION |
| 03 | 02/12/10 | LOGS SUBMISSION |

HUNTER COLLEGE
THOMAS HUNTER HALL
930 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10065
RESTORATION ASSEMBLY
DETAILS

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| CLASSIFICATION | 122C3000000 |
| ISSUE # | 00000001 |
| DATE | 02/12/10 |



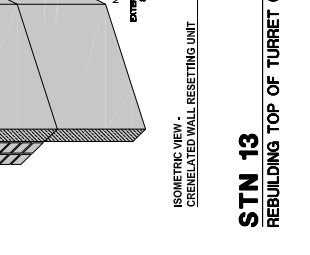
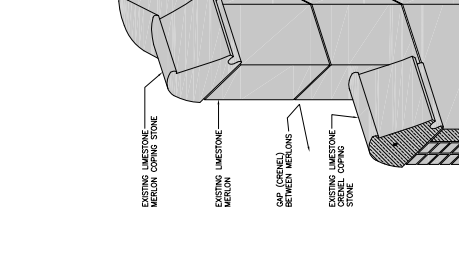
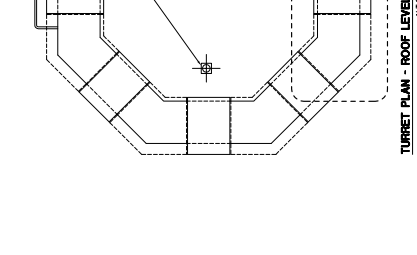
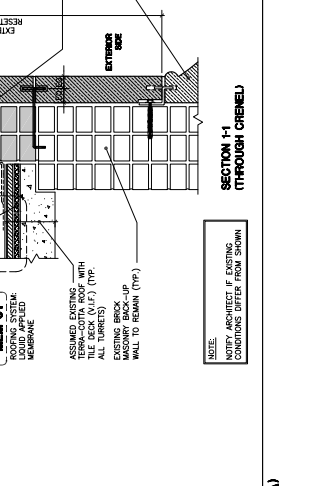
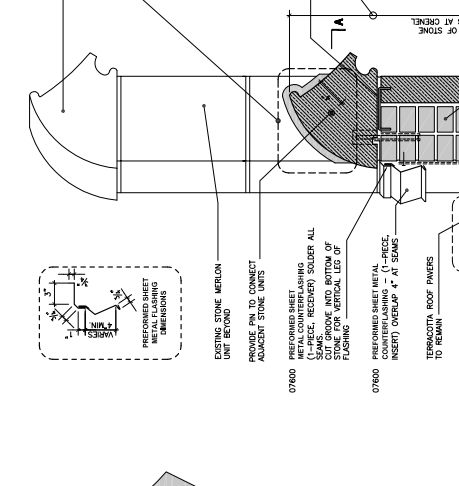
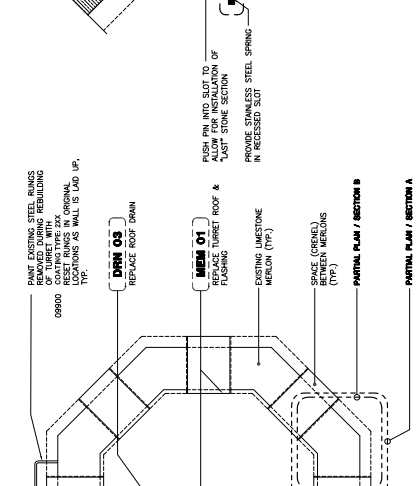
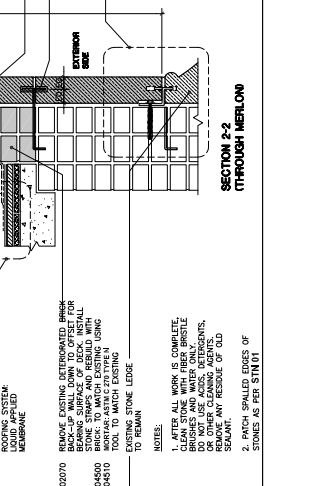
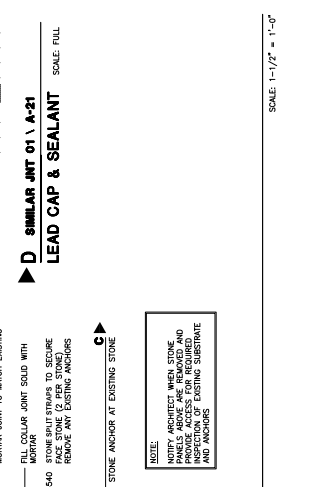
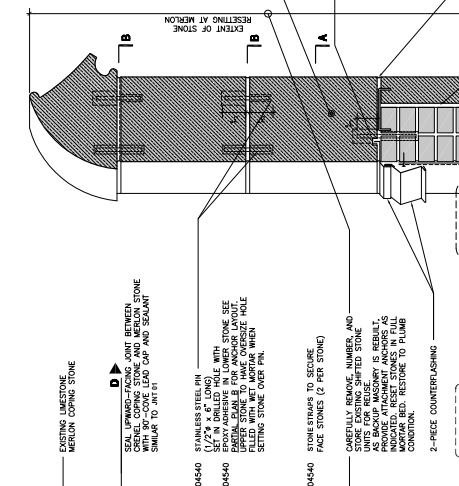
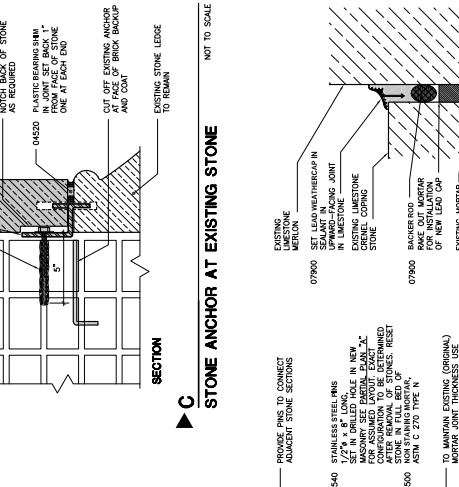
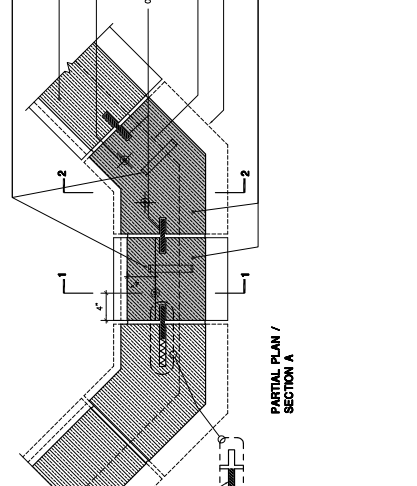
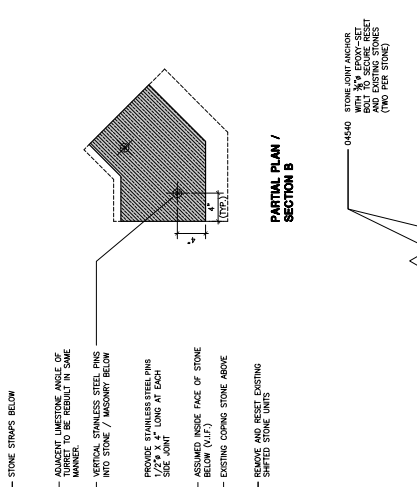
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| NO | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
| 01 | 05/01/09 | ISSUED FOR BID |
| 02 | 05/05/09 | 100% DIMENSION |
| 03 | 02/12/10 | FOR EXHIBITION |

HUNTER COLLEGE
THOMAS HUNTER HALL
930 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10065

RESTORATION ASSEMBLY
DETAILS

| | | |
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| CADSW | MARKET | 12/20/09/09/09 |
| ISSY # | NO/00/00 | |
| DATE | 11/10/09 | |
| DATE | 11/10/09 | |

SHEET #
A-044.00
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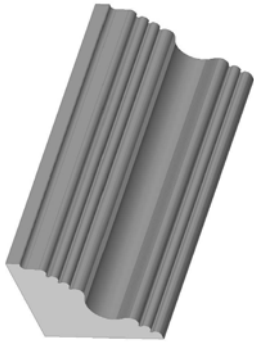
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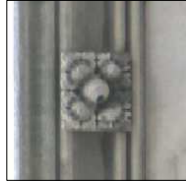
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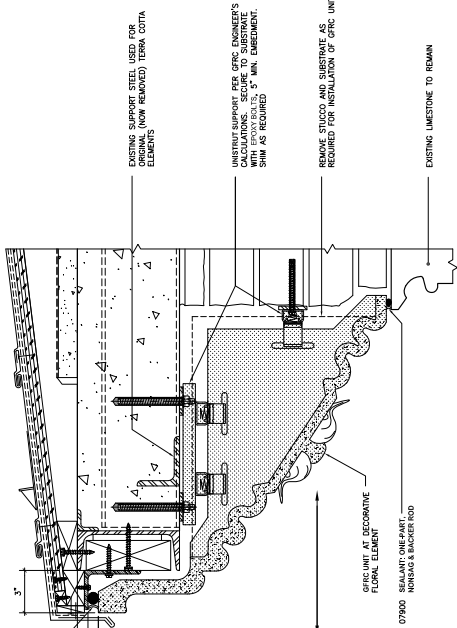
HISTORICAL PHOTO OF ORIGINAL TERRA COTTA CORNICE AND BALLISTRAD



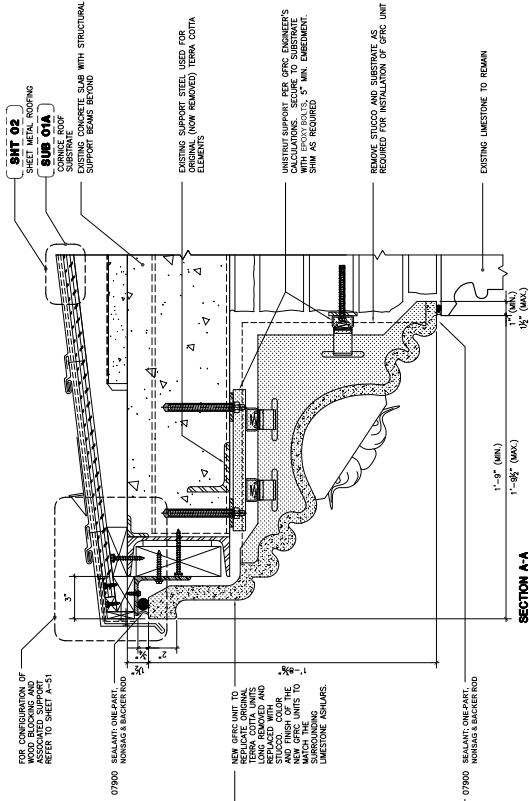
3-D RENDERING OF PROPOSED REPLICATED CORNICE SHAPE



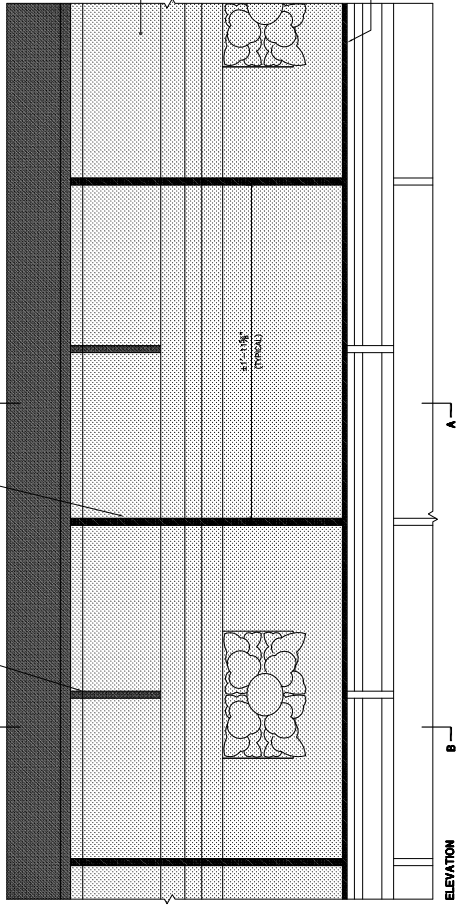
EXISTING 'FLORAL' DECORATIVE ELEMENT AT 2ND FLOOR TO BE USE FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE MOLDS



SECTION B-B



SECTION A-A



ELEVATION

CRN 01 CORNICE RECONSTRUCTION (LF)

SCALE: 3" = 1'-0"

SUPERSTRUCTURES
CONSTRUCTION

AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK

HUNTER COLLEGE
THOMAS HUNTER HALL
930 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10065

CORNICE GFRG
RECONSTRUCTION DETAIL

SHEET #

A-050.00

| NO. | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 10/29/11 | REVISION 1 | |
| 09/02/11 | REVISION 2 | |
| 07/16/11 | ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION | |
| 02/17/11 | LABORER'S SUBMISSION | |

| | | | |
|---------|------------|---------|----------|
| CADSW | DATE | ISSUE # | REVISION |
| MARKET | 12/28/2009 | | |
| ISSUE # | NO.000001 | | |
| DATE | | | |

Credits

Individual team members whom we wish to acknowledge are listed below

SUPERSTRUCTURES Engineers + Architects (Facade and roofs)

- Paul Millman, PE, RA, LEED AP
- Vikrant Sampat, PE, LEED AP
- Mark Ingalls, PE
- Michael Stripunsky, RA
- Larry Schroeder, RA
- Stephen Gottlieb, RA
- Joan Berkowitz
- Juan Carlos Reyes
- Nalan Durakci
- Laura Michela
- Deeroop Matapersad
- Niraj Rawal
- L. Diana Torres

Li/Saltzman Architects (Windows and doors)

Judith Saltzman, RA
Zach Rice, RA
Jason Jeanjaquet
Pompee Barcelona
Rizwana Shaikh, RA



Restored turrets at Thomas Hunter Hall