

As seen in New York Construction – October 2005



Building News - October 2005

Woolworth's Façade Restoration

Cass Gilbert's Woolworth Building at 233 Broadway in Lower Manhattan, completed in 1913, is getting a \$2.2 million facelift to renovate its historic exterior features.

Façade Maintenance Design of New York is architect on the exterior renovation of the 57-story landmark. The project involves restoring damaged limestone, resealing 25,000 sq. ft. of copper mansard roofs, and repair or replacement of more than 600 terra cotta stones.

Both the architect and the general contractor on the job, Seaboard Weatherproofing and Restoration of Port Chester, N.Y., also handled the exterior and roof restoration earlier this year on another Gilbert-designed landmark several blocks away, 90 West Street, which had suffered extensive façade damage in the World Trade Center attacks in 2001. Completion of the Woolworth restoration is scheduled for the end of the year, with additional stone replacement extending into next year.

The Witkoff Group, based in New York, bought the building in 1998. It had previously announced a plan to convert office space from the 29th to the 57th floors into 145 residential units, and had won approval for \$80 million in Liberty Bonds to help fund the project.

But in a filing with the New York City Department of Buildings earlier this year, the owner noted that the conversion project was "no longer proposed." Witkoff did not return a call requesting comment on the change in plans.