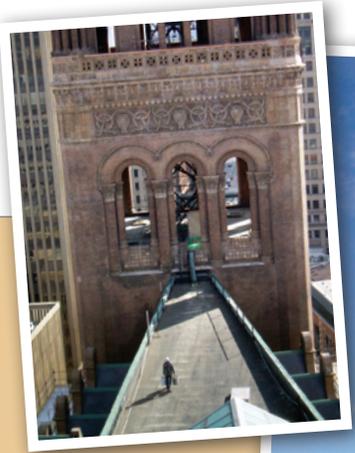


# Preserving a Timeless Milwaukee Masterpiece

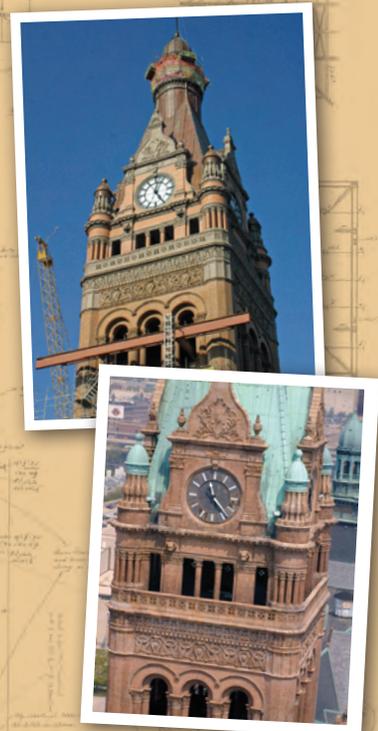
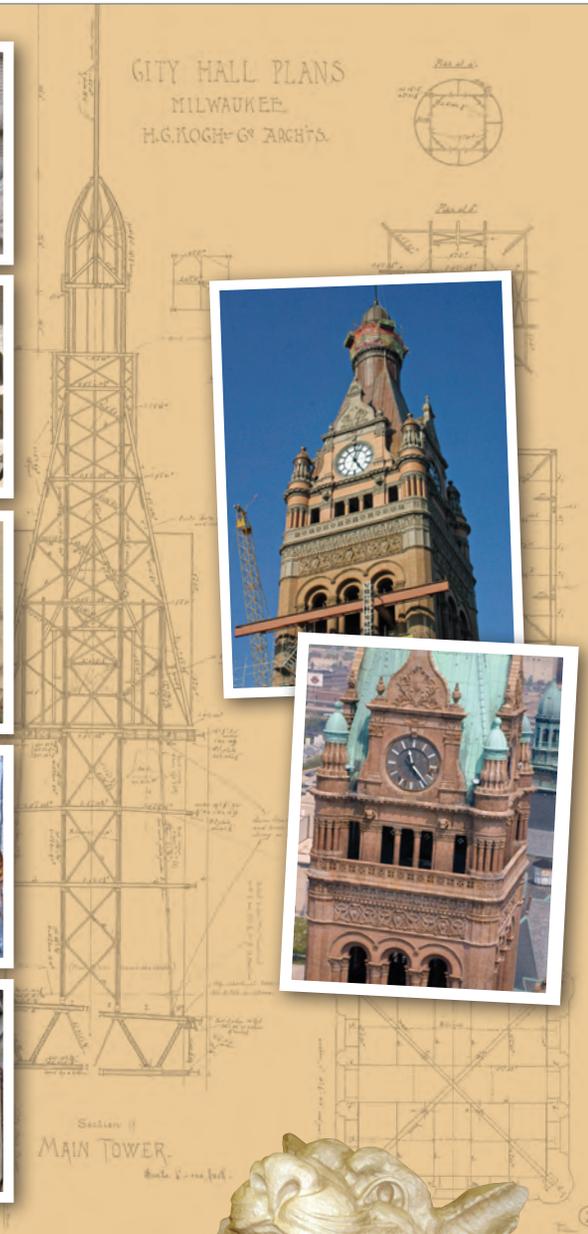


## Did You Know?

During the **City Hall Restoration Project**, workers had to take their time removing, and getting precise measurements of, the terra cotta sculptures on the building. It took six to eight months to manufacture replicas of the sculptures and only two firms in the country could handle the job – **Boston Valley Terra Cotta**, Orchard Park, N.Y., and **Gladding McBean**, Lincoln, Calif.

Each piece of terra cotta was hand-packed into a plaster mold 8% to 10% larger than the finished product. Each piece was then fired in a kiln at temperatures up to 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit.

Each of City Hall's sandstone capitals, cherubs, friezes, faces and egg/dart carvings were sculpted from blocks of stone already set in place during the building's construction (1894-1895).



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*Designed and produced by the Public Information Division of the City Clerk's Office.*



**S**ince 1895 Milwaukee City Hall has stood as a 393-foot tall beacon of pride and architectural achievement, a bustling center of municipal government that is also a cultural icon. Prior to construction city leaders made it clear that our new City Hall should be a grand symbol of strength, character and beauty – a “building of the people” that would elicit feelings of civic pride and immediate recognition.

**They achieved that, and more.**

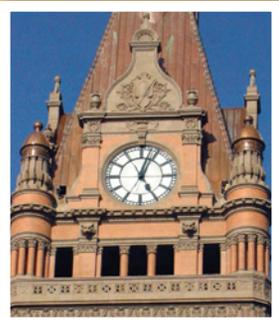


However, over the course of 100-plus years, wind, water, ice, snow, sun and corrosive airborne pollutants had taken their toll, threatening the building's outer

skin and especially the grand bell tower's intricate brickwork and its heavy adornment of terra cotta and copper. In 2005, City Hall was designated a **National Historic Landmark**, and shortly thereafter, an extensive three-year restoration of the exterior of the building began, quickly making the project one of keen national interest and the most historically significant project of its time in the Midwest.



### City Hall Restoration Project: The Details



External renovations have included upgrading 1,900 windows, repairing sandstone, replacing hundreds of thousands of deteriorating bricks and replacing the copper roofing on the building's two spires. The biggest challenge was repairing the bricks, as the original bricks were shaped and constructed differently than those used today. And, the masonry construction method used in the late 19th century is much different than what's acceptable today. Also, 13,000 near identical replications of terra cotta sculptures and forms on the building were created to replace those that had chips, cracks and general deterioration.

**The four-face clock on the bell tower was restored to its original look – a backlit white face with black hour markers.** The tower itself was rebuilt from the inside out, ensuring its structural integrity for at least another 100 years.



### City Hall Construction Facts:

**City Hall was designed by Milwaukee architect Henry Koch** and the building was completed in 1896 at a cost of \$945,311. City Hall's exterior was last renovated in 1974 for \$1.8 million. The basement and the foundation of City Hall are constructed of granite and the first and second floors are constructed of sandstone. The remaining six floors consist of pressed brick and terra cotta. The building's original construction included more than eight million bricks. Of those, nearly half of the bricks were used in the bell tower. The bell, which weighs more than 20,000 pounds, is named “Solomon Juneau,” in honor of the founder of Milwaukee.

### Who Restored the Masterpiece?

To oversee the architectural restoration work, the city hired the Historic Third Ward-based firm of **Engberg Anderson**. The Janesville, Wisconsin firm, **J.P. Cullen Construction** was hired to perform and complete the exterior restoration work. **J.F. Cook Co.** of Oak Creek, Wisconsin was hired to painstakingly upgrade 1,900 windows to make them more energy efficient. **ThyssenKrupp Safway** of Waukesha, Wisconsin erected the massive and complex, 1.2 million pounds of specially engineered scaffold that enabled workers to safely complete the project.

Additional subcontractors and workers were hired on various phases of the project, and as the project neared completion toward the end of 2008, all of the participation requirements and goals had been surpassed (the Residents Preference Program – hiring city and local residents to work on the project – had a participation rate over 25%, Emerging Business Enterprises had been paid over 23% of the total project construction dollars and 29% of all onsite construction hours had been worked by people of color, including construction novices and experienced workers).

