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Empire State Building – Renovation Partners Backgrounder

The more than \$550 million renovation and modernization of the Empire State Building has been a highly collaborative endeavor, bringing world-class engineers, architects, contractors, artists, historians and craftsmen together for this once-in-a-lifetime project.

What follows is background on the key renovation partners that helped restore the original aesthetics of the Empire State Building, while updating this world icon to meet or exceed contemporary construction and environmental standards.

Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners LLP

Beyer Blinder Belle (BBB) led the design of the overall historical renovation and restoration of the Empire State Building’s art deco lobby. Drawing from its experience with other high-profile projects, BBB restored the original aesthetic and architectural vision, while integrating state-of-the-art traffic flow for tenants, tenant guests and visitors of a modern Class A office building. BBB also identified stone to closely match the original marble throughout the lobby, which was implemented through the restoration. BBB has been the driving force behind several major restoration initiatives around the world, including the recent full restoration of New York’s Grand Central Terminal.

Website: BeyerBlinderBelle.com

Spokesperson: Frank Prial, Senior Preservation Architect

Empire State Building Company

Empire State Building Company owns the operating lease to the Empire State Building. The Empire State Building Company is controlled by the Malkin Family and the Estate of Leona Helmsley. The day to day operations of the Empire State Building Company are directed by W&H Properties.

EverGreene Architectural Arts, Inc.

EverGreene Architectural Arts, Inc., is recognized around the world for its breathtaking restoration and replication of historic artwork. For the Empire State Building, EverGreene recreated the original, aluminum and gold leaf Art Deco lobby ceiling. EverGreene’s master artists have worked to restore historic landmarks and create new decorative pieces for clients around the world, ranging from treasured public monuments to new, modern hotels and resorts. EverGreene worked closely with BBB to restore the iconic celestial ceiling in New York’s Grand Central Terminal.

Website: EverGreene.com

Spokesperson: Jeff Greene, President

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THE EMPIRE STATE
REBUILDING

Hunter Roberts Interiors

Hunter Roberts Interiors (HRI) served as the contractor for the Empire State Building lobby restoration and modernization initiative. In addition to the Empire State Building, Hunter Roberts has provided contracting service to a range of other notable projects, including renovations to Trinity Church and corporate headquarters.

Website: HunterRobertsCG.com
Spokesperson: Larry Petretti, President

Joan Irving Glass Design

Joan Irving has been creating unique and contemporary glass sculptures, furniture and accessories since 1980. For the Empire State Building, Irving reconstructed the original glass panels that once graced the building's elevator lobbies and street entrance corridors. Irving is internationally recognized as an innovator in technique, concept and design. Her work is extensively exhibited and collected throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Japan and is included in the permanent collection of the Corning Museum of Glass.

Website: IrvingGlass.com
Spokesperson: Joan Irving, Glass Artisan

Jones Lang LaSalle

Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) is the overall project manager for the Empire State Building's more than \$550 million capital improvements program. In conjunction with design criteria to restore the original lighting levels, JLL has integrated the design team to introduce energy efficient lighting systems. The firm offers integrated services delivered by expert teams worldwide to clients seeking increased value by owning, occupying or investing in real estate. With 2008 global revenue of \$2.7 billion, Jones Lang LaSalle serves clients in 60 countries from 750 locations worldwide, including 180 corporate offices. The firm is an industry leader in property and corporate facility management services, with a portfolio of approximately 1.3 billion square feet worldwide. LaSalle Investment Management, the company's investment management business, is one of the world's largest and most diverse in real estate with over \$46 billion of assets under management.

Website: JonesLangLaSalle.com
Spokesperson: Ray Quartararo, Managing Director, Northeast Region

Rambusch Lighting

When the Empire State Building first opened in 1931, the lobby featured a dramatic lighting scheme which was lost in the 1960s when a "modern" dropped ceiling was installed. Rambusch—the fourth generation family-owned company—interpreted and fabricated dramatic chandeliers that were originally designed for the building but never constructed. Rambusch has a history of significant lighting projects around the world and in New York, including the Met Life Building, Hoboken Terminal and 245 Park Avenue.

Website: RambuschLighting.com
Spokesperson: Edwin Rambusch

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The Lighting Practice, LLP

The Lighting Practice (TLP) joined the team during the design period. TLP designed a series of mock-ups to investigate every form of lighting for the mural, testing the most energy-efficient methods. TLP developed a lighting system that best represents the original, while illuminating the Art Deco mural with state-of-the-art technology. TLP has worked on many other historic restoration projects, including the Amtrak 30th Street Station in Philadelphia.

Website: TheLightingPractice.com
Spokesperson: Al Borden, Partner

Two Twelve Associates:

Two Twelve has had extensive expertise in building graphics and way-finding renovations. They have worked closely with BBB to implement the new lobby traffic flow diagram through the restoration of original signs, elimination of erroneous signs, and standardization of all sign types. In collaboration with Schwartzco, Inc., Two Twelve designed a new, proprietary Art Deco font, appropriately entitled “Empire State Building” font that was inspired by 1930s signage fonts. Two Twelve brings its expertise to ESB after having successfully completed many other similar projects, including Grand Central Terminal.

Website: TwoTwelve.com
Contact: Ann Harakawa, Principal

For Interviews

For interviews with any of the construction partners or for additional information, please contact Adam Pietrala at adam.pietrala@edelman.com or 212-704-8176.

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