

Press Release

National Trust Presents National Preservation Honor Award to 90 West Street in Lower Manhattan

Pittsburgh, Pa. (November 2, 2006) – Today, the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** presented **90 West Street in Lower Manhattan** its prestigious National Preservation Honor Award. The project was one of 21 national award winners honored by the National Trust during its week-long **2006 National Preservation Conference** in Pittsburgh, Pa.



When the World Trade Center collapsed, tons of debris crashed down on a lavishly adorned skyscraper, 90 West Street. Built between 1905 and 1907 and designed by Cass Gilbert, architect of the famed Woolworth Building and the US Supreme Court building, the handsome 23-story building on the southern border of Ground Zero burned for three days and flames from the World Trade Center scorched its terra-cotta façade and melted the building's copper roof and balustrade.

Nearly five years later, 90 West Street is one of only a handful of architectural success stories from Ground Zero. Today, the one-time ruin with the ornamental gargoyles, flora and animal heads, is a gleaming symbol of recovery. The former office building has been converted to residential use – despite daunting challenges posed by the lack of electrical power and water during the project's early phase.

Every block of granite and terra cotta had to be inspected for damage – and to get that job done, workers often had to climb 23 floors of stairs several times a day. An innovative steel-framed panel system was used to repair the heavily damaged granite base. Terra-cotta restoration techniques ranged from state-of-the-art to low-tech: 7,000 shattered pieces were meticulously replicated, while smoke-darkened surfaces were cleaned with ordinary dishwashing liquid. The result is a

building that looks better than ever.

"Risen from the rubble of disaster, 90 West Street is more than a survivor. It is a triumph," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "Last year, the National Trust presented an Honor Award to the Verizon/Barclay-Vesey Building in Lower Manhattan. Now, 90 West Street joins a short list of buildings that are cornerstones of the ongoing rebirth of the neighborhood around Ground Zero."



Co-nominees honored today for the 90 West Street Preservation Award are Kibel Companies, LLC, Façade Maintenance Design, Brack Capital Real Estate Group, Seaboard Weatherproofing Company, H. and Thomas O'Hara Architect PLLC.

The National Preservation Awards are bestowed on distinguished individuals, nonprofit organizations, public agencies and corporations whose skill and determination have given new meaning to their communities through preservation of our architectural and cultural heritage. These efforts include citizen attempts to save and maintain important landmarks; companies and craftsmen whose work restores the richness of the past; the vision of public officials who support preservation projects and legislation in their communities; and educators and journalists who help Americans understand the value of preservation.

Media interested in learning more about the National Trust's 2006 National Preservation Award Winners or in attending future conference events should contact the National Trust Communications Office at 202-588-6141. Registration is free to the media, as are the Awards Ceremony, field sessions, educational sessions, and special events. For more information and images of the 2006 National Preservation Award winners, visit www.nationaltrust.org/npa2006/.