

Ready for the ★ Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Macy's Herald Square is New York City's most iconic department store, welcoming more than 20 million visitors from around the world each year. The world-famous flagship is a retail institution known for its fashion and epic events most notably the Annual Macy's Flower Show; Macy's 4th of July Fireworks and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Built in 1902, the "World's Largest Store" currently houses more than 1 million square feet of retail space. In 2011, Macy's Inc. announced that the store will increase its selling space to 1.2 million square feet following an extensive four-year, \$400 million renovation. The renovation will transform the store into one of the most technologically-advanced, fashion-forward and exciting destinations in the world with new designer departments, epicurean experiences and multi-level luxury shops.

Skyline Restoration is currently performing exterior restoration at this interna-

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A Playground Is Built In One Day!



hourchildren On October 5th, 2012, Hour Children, a non-profit organization located in Long Island City, was joined by over 250 volunteers in building a new playground for the community. The organization, which provides housing and supportive services to families in need, received a grant from Zynga and KaBOOM! In this ribbon-cutting ceremony photo (L-R): State Senator Michael Gianaris, Sister Tesa Fitzgerald, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, Assembly Member Catherine Nolan, Skyline Restoration's Marketing Director Eva Hatzaki and in the front line "Hour Children" holding the hand-painted ribbon.

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Photo: Merritt Engineering Consultants, PC

What's So Special About "Special Inspections"?

By Douglas H. Schultze & Andre Parnter,
 Senior Project Managers,
 Merritt Engineering Consultants, PC

There are two words to describe New York City's latest undertaking to continually ensure safe building practices—Special Inspections. With the merging of sections of the International Building Code into the 2008 New York City Building Code, "Special Inspections" replaced what were formerly referred to as "Controlled Inspections," which were required for various items of work that impact structural integrity, fireproofing, excavation, demolition, soils stability and other work'. Despite the new name and new requirements, the primary reason for Special Inspections remains the same – to verify that the work being done during the construction process complies with approved plans and specifications.

The People:

Special Inspections must be performed by a Special Inspector, an individual with specialized skills, experience, and certifications, who observes critical building and/or structural features identified by the design professional as required by Chapter 17 of the Building Code and Title 1 of the Rules of the City of New York

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IT in Construction: Benefits and Challenges



By Vedant Jain, IT Analyst, Skyline Restoration Inc.

Appropriate use and deployment of Information Technology (IT) solutions has given a strategic edge to businesses for improving organizational productivity and gaining competitive advantage. Over the past couple of decades, we have seen rapid advancements in information technologies and IT has managed to spread to all kinds of businesses.

Business oriented technologies that have proven extremely beneficial are:

- Enterprise Resource Planning
- Content management/document sharing
- Customer Relationship Management

The real beneficiary of the IT explosion has been the manufacturing and retail industry. This is primarily because of the customer and mass marketing/selling dynamic that Information Technology supports and streamlines by nature. For example, retailers can have one system working across stores (sometimes across national borders) to ensure the most effective use of stock and have a customer database to get in touch with each customer individually for sales and marketing of their products. Customers can now purchase products online by utilizing the concept of ubiquitous computing which allows them to access their accounts anytime anywhere through websites and mobile applications and make payments in a speedy and secure fashion.

Construction companies can utilize these technological advancements to ensure timely delivery of projects and stay neck and neck with other industries. It is mandatory that everyone involved in a particular project is up to date with the most current information, and it is necessary that the project team is able to query, approve and communicate changes online. This ensures on-time and on-schedule delivery of the project.

Proper use of technology not only facilitates accuracy in estimat-

Information Technology in construction ensures that the right information is transferred to the right people at the right time with minimal effort and cost

ing and budgeting but it also encourages collaboration between estimators, project managers and the purchasing department to control costs and inventory, while tracking all communications ensures effective people management during and after the project life cycle.

There are a number of challenges that IT professionals face in the construction environment. There are powerful software tools meant for construction, however, few can communicate with those used in other parts of the process.

In 2007, McGraw Hill Construction estimated that an average of 3.1% of the project cost is directly related to the interoperability of software. This gets further complicated because the construction process itself is fragmented and can vary greatly in complexity. However, recent significant advancements in IT may prove to be extremely suitable for this dynamic and changing environment.

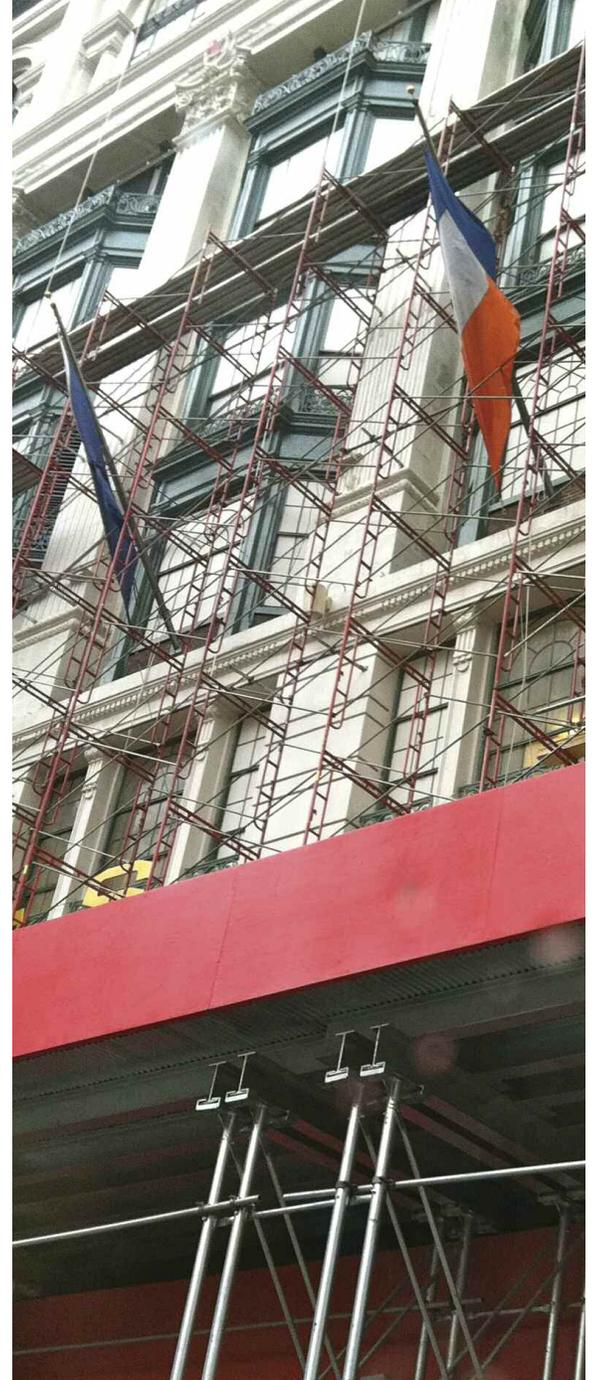
Technologies such as tablet PC's and remote accessibility programs allow field staff to retrieve and update documents by logging into their workstations while they are onsite and have access to the exact same information as their office. They can also stay connected with other project members at all times thereby having extreme mobility, effective time/people management and reducing errors and rework.

Skyline Restoration recently deployed tablets and remote access to its Field Superintendents to access important documents on-site. IT is also beneficial during closeout meetings for reviewing the projection, budget, cost and milestones for the project and to understand what goals were met.

Even though there are many benefits to an IT-enabled construction environment, it also comes with its vices such as cost of deployment, maintenance, and data security, which we will discuss in future articles.

Skyline Restoration proudly introduces the recent launch of **Skyline U**, an online training portal for both the office and the field. Through internally customized lesson plans, presentations, and demonstrations, **Skyline U** presents our team with the resources to grow professionally and better service our clients and industry.

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tionally renowned commercial building, under the direction of **Alan S. Epstein, PE of Epstein Engineering PC.**

The one million dollar restoration project, which is to be completed before the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, covers the following areas: masonry and decorative stone repair work; windowsill repairs and window frame refurbishing; lintel repairs; window pane and parapet railing painting; caulking repairs and coatings.

Owner: Macy's Corporate Services Inc.

Engineer: Alan S. Epstein, PE, Epstein Engineering PC.

**Skyline Restoration: Jasen Geraghty, Sales Rep.;
Daniel Callahan, Project Manager**

A Playground Is Built In One Day!



On October 5th, 2012, **Hour Children**, a non-profit organization located in Long Island City, was joined by over 250 volunteers in building a new playground for the community. The organization, which provides housing and supportive services to

families in need, received a playground grant from **Zynga** and **KaBOOM!**

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the volunteers, the new playground, was built in just one day. The beautiful new facility includes a jungle gym, benches, and

art work done by volunteers.

Skyline Restoration is proud to have been a sponsor for the new playground and to be a part of the effort to make a difference for children in the community.

More information at skylines.skylinerestoration.com

What's So Special About "Special Inspections"?

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(1 RCNY). The Special Inspector is employed by an accredited firm known as a Special Inspection Agency, which must be hired directly by the owner of the building or the owner's agent.

The Process:

Prior to the commencement of work, the Special Inspector will review the contractor's proposed sequence of operations and determine the areas of work that require design. The Special Inspector will then prepare a written statement, mutually acceptable to the contractor and the Special Inspector, which indicates:

- The portions of work requiring design.
- The names and addresses of the licensed professionals that have been engaged to supply design documents for applicable work.
- The approximate dates for delivery of design documents.
- A schedule of special inspections at agreed upon intervals, including adequate frequency to ensure the contractor's continued compliance with the proposed designs and sequence of construction operations.

The Special Inspector will visit the jobsite at the scheduled intervals to inspect the work and verify that the work conforms to the approved construction documents.

Special Inspections may be continuous or periodic depending on the type of work being performed. It is important to note that Special Inspections are in addition to, not a substitute, for Progress Inspections or regular construction monitoring services provided during a project.

Following the completion of each inspection, the Special Inspector provides the owner with a written report of each inspection, which includes descriptions of the work being performed at the time of the inspection and any items of work not in compliance with the approved construction documents. Discrepancies must be reported and corrected as required by §1704.1.2 of the Building Code. Hazardous conditions, if any, must be reported immediately to the Commissioner of the Buildings Department.

The Special Inspection Agency maintains copies of a Special Inspection log book, the original; design documents, and any necessary revisions of those design documents. The owner and the contractor must also maintain copies of the log book at the jobsite until the work is completed.

The special inspection requirements for a specific construction project are determined by both the registered design professional and the Department of Buildings. If the registered design professional determines that Special Inspections are not

required for an item of work, a Department of Buildings Plan Examiner may still issue objections or require sealed and signed waivers of special inspection requirements so that a work permit can be approved. In that event, the registered design professional should submit an Additional Information (AI-1) form stating the reasons why a Special Inspection is not required with citations of applicable sections of the Building Code to avoid delays in obtaining approval of the work permit.

In summary, the goal of Special Inspections is to verify that the work complies with the specified requirements of the approved construction documents and that quality workmanship has been incorporated into the construction and restoration of buildings.

As indicated on the Department of Buildings' TR1 form and stated in Chapter 17 of the Building Code.

Merritt Engineering Consultants, P.C. is registered with the New York City Department of Buildings to provide Special Inspections for Structural Safety, Structural Stability and Masonry.

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