

# WBMA NEWS

Autumn 2007

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

WALTER B. MELVIN ARCHITECTS, LLC is pleased to announce the promotion of *Dorian Yurchuk* to Associate in the firm. A graduate of the Cooper Union and McGill University Graduate School of Architecture, he received his Master of Architecture Degree in 1998. Dorian has been with the firm as Project Manager for ten years, and is licensed to practice architecture in New York State.

### ADDITIONS TO WBMA

*Susannah Jackson Bull*,  
B.A. Historic Preservation,  
Mary Washington College;  
M.S. Historic Preservation,  
Columbia University, 2005

*James V. Banta*, B.A. Art History,  
Connecticut College;  
M.S. Historic Preservation,  
University of Pennsylvania, 1995

*Sergio De Orbeta*, B. Arch.,  
Carnegie Mellon University;  
M.S. Historic Preservation,  
University of Pennsylvania, 2006

*Mary-Jordan Boler*, B.A. Architecture,  
Mississippi State University,  
College of Architecture,  
Art & Design, 2006

*Anne E. Hinsman*, B.A. Art History,  
Connecticut College; M. Arch.  
University of Michigan, 2001,  
licensed Architect in the State of Texas

*Mia Ho*, M.A. Art History,  
National Taiwan University;  
M.S. Historic Preservation,  
University of Pennsylvania, 2004

*Jessica Najdek*, brings her expertise to the administrative staff starting this summer.

*Katherine Allen*, B.A. Art History,  
University of Birmingham; M.S. Historic  
Preservation, Columbia University, 2006.

### WELCOME BACK

*Janet Shelley*, rejoins the firm after eighteen months working for an architectural restoration firm in Toronto.

*Greg Larangeira*, returns after a year of travel in the far east. ■



55 Liberty Street

PHOTO: WALTER B. MELVIN ARCHITECTS, LLC

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS

This year has been the busiest yet at Walter B. Melvin Architects, LLC. The year began on a high note with the commencement of work on the fanciful white terra cotta exterior of Liberty Tower, the 1909 gothic skyscraper that graces New York's financial district at Nassau Street. Walter B. Melvin, Principal, with Martin Griggs, Associate, will oversee the restoration and repair of the exterior of this historic tower. Mr. Melvin is also consulting with Nancy Owens Studios Landscape Architects to develop a master plan for the important historic site at Fort Totten Battery, Queens, for the New York City Parks Department.

Charles DiSanto, Principal, is overseeing several important terra cotta cornice reconstruction projects. He has recently begun work as building architect for 10 Gracie Square. He and Kevin Daly are completing work on the brick, slate and brownstone of the exterior envelope of the

Desmond Tutu Education Center at the historic General Theological Seminary. (Walter B. Melvin Architects, LLC was awarded a New York Landmarks Conservancy Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award for work at the Seminary in 2005.)

With Robert Bates as Principal-in-charge, Walter B. Melvin Architects, LLC has recently completed a comprehensive survey of the exterior envelope at the Cloisters Museum, which will provide a schedule and budget for future restoration and preservation work there. The Late Gothic Windows at the Cloisters are also presently undergoing major restoration.

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## AWARDS

The prestigious *2006 Lucy B. Moses Restoration Award* for work on the façades of *Kips Bay Towers* was given to Walter B. Melvin Architects, LLC, with *Senior Associate Edward Eacker* overseeing the extensive three year restoration.

The restoration of the Bell Tower and surrounding mission tile roofs at the *Cloisters Museum* were recognized with a *Lucy B. Moses Award* last year.

55 Liberty Street terra cotta detail



# WBMA NEWS *cont.*

## SIXTH CYCLE LOCAL LAW 11 REPORTS AND REPAIRS

### *Local Law 11/98*

This February saw, for some, the rapid approach of the filing deadline for the Sixth Cycle of Local Law 11.

This increasingly significant law mandates an up-close inspection of building facades every five years (each a "cycle"). Although New York City provides for a two-year "window" for filing the reports, which are required for buildings over six stories tall, the sheer numbers of such buildings in the City insured a closing push towards compliance.

Although some building owners and property managers signed on early to have reports generated, many others waited or found out, upon inspection, that recommended repairs identified in the previous fifth cycle report had not been completed. They were faced with the additional pressure of completing a project during the busy Local Law "season." Pricing for such work is typically higher than during a non-Local Law 11 year, since the demand for qualified architects, contractors, equipment and materials tends to strain the available supply.

Our office prepared many reports for this cycle, ably coordinated by Eileen Murdock. We would encourage building owners to address repair conditions in a timely manner, so that the work can be performed in an efficient and cost-effective way before the Seventh Local Law Cycle.

## WEB SITE

We are proud to announce the updating of the Walter B. Melvin Architects, LLC web site at [www.wbmelvin.com](http://www.wbmelvin.com). The expanded site provides information about our firm, our staff, and our philosophy. It illustrates numerous projects that represent the wide range of building types and material restorations that have been completed, along with a description of the full range of services available at Walter B. Melvin Architects, LLC. ■

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS CONT.

Edward Eacker, Senior Associate, is overseeing work at 165 West 66th Street. This is the second major 1960's building where Walter B. Melvin Architects, LLC has been retained to replace the entire exterior brick façade due to failures in the original structure. The Vermeer at Seventh Avenue and 15th Street in Manhattan was the first large building where this approach was deemed necessary. The firm developed a number of special details to accomplish this work while retaining full use of the building during construction.

Other significant projects include major work at 475 Tenth Avenue, constructed in 1916 to house the McGraw-Hill Publishing Company. Charles DiSanto, Principal, with Chris Girr as Project Manager, will oversee the replacement of this historic building's generous multi-light windows and the repair of its white terra cotta façade. Bruce Barton is overseeing the reconstruction of the solarium at Marymount School, where this historic amenity will be given a structural overhaul and new copper cladding. Brick masonry restoration continues at The Majestic at 115 Central Park West, and Walter B. Melvin Architects, LLC continues its longstanding relationships maintaining the exteriors of the Cosmopolitan Club, the Parc Vendome, the Frick Collection and the Jewish Museum.

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Upcoming*

By Charles DiSanto:

- Loggia, Arquitectura & Restauración, Quarterly Review Specializing in Conservation and Restoration of Architectural Patrimony (Spain)  
*"Restoration and Repair of High-Rise Apartment Buildings, New York City"*
- Loggia, Arquitectura & Restauración, Quarterly Review Specializing in Conservation and Restoration of Architectural Patrimony (Spain)  
*"Restoration of the Queensboro Bridge Guastavino Tile Vaults: A Case Study"*

## WBMA, LLC PROJECTS IN THE NEWS

- Clem Labine's Traditional Building, Public and Institutional Architecture Issue  
The Professional's Resource for Public Architecture, April, 2006 Vol 19, No. 2  
*"Restoration: Cloisters Unveiled"*  
Review of the on-going comprehensive restoration at the Cloisters Museum, led by Robert Bates, Principal at Walter B. Melvin Architects, LLC.
- The Architect's Newspaper  
New York Architecture and Design, Vol. 13,  
July 26, 2006  
*"God in the Details"*  
Review of the sensitive restoration of the three limestone windows at the Early Gothic Hall of the Cloisters Museum.

*Kips Bay Towers*

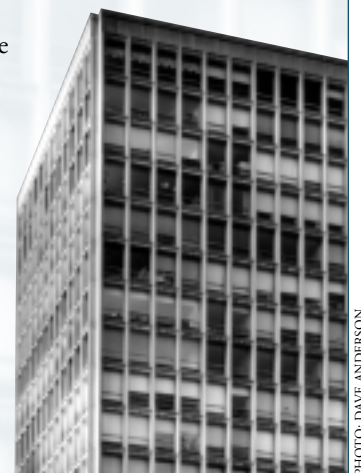


PHOTO: DAVE ANDERSON