

Quantapoint Case Study

Quantapoint Helps WJE Significantly Reduce Project Cost and Time While Improving Quality

A Quantapoint Win of "Historic" Proportions

Situation

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) has been one of the country's major forensic engineering and architectural firms for more than 50 years. Among its many distinctions, WJE is known for its expertise in historic preservation and the restoration and repair of some of our nation's most treasured buildings.

Challenge

WJE was asked to develop plans for repairs needed to an historic facade of one of New York City's largest museums. The facade is composed of elaborate and richly articulated stonework and stretches nearly one thousand feet on the West Side of Manhattan. Because there were minimal existing drawings of the original construction, WJE had to survey and document the configuration and conditions of the facade while minimizing disturbance to the structure and its landscaped site.

"Without Quantapoint we would have needed at least three times more staff to complete the assignment. That, of course, converted into substantial savings for the firm and our client."

*Timothy Allanbrook
Senior Consultant, WJE*

Solution

In order to develop accurate base level drawings of the entire facade, WJE called upon Quantapoint Inc. of Pittsburgh, PA, a leading provider of as-built documentation using integrated laser scanning. Quantapoint's as-built laser documentation™ is a "turnkey" solution that combines hardware, software, data processing and delivery. Quantapoint rapidly collects, registers and verifies billions of highly accurate measurements to provide a consistent and up-to-date "digitized building" of as-built laser documentation – without invasive manual measurement, purchasing costly hardware or time-consuming remodeling.



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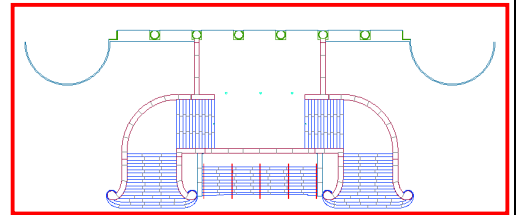
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Results

The digitized building provides a dimensionally accurate representation of the building on the desktop that can be used to create various 2D drawings, such as Floor Plans, Exterior and Interior Elevations, Reflected Ceiling Plans, Roof Plans, Building Sections and more. The result is reduced costs, optimized schedules, increased quality and improved safety.

“We chose Quantapoint for many reasons, one of which was their ability to provide totally accurate drawings while minimizing the need to touch the existing structure,” says Timothy Allanbrook, a Senior Consultant for WJE. Additionally, because the museum building is set back within a landscaped site, Allanbrook says it would have been difficult to bring heavy equipment in front of the building as part of his surveying efforts. “Quantapoint's laser scanning provided quite an advantage. It allowed us to obtain highly detailed drawings without bringing lift trucks in.”



Of special benefit to WJE in this assignment was Quantapoint's ability to provide additional drawings, as they were needed for later stages of the project with no further site work. According to Allanbrook, “without that advantage we would have had to make additional costly and time-consuming trips back to the field.”

Allanbrook also says cost savings were a major consideration in the decision to choose Quantapoint. “Without Quantapoint we would have needed at least three times more staff to complete the assignment. That, of course, converted into substantial savings for the firm and our client.”

Allanbrook added: “Quantapoint brought many benefits to the project. Without their services we would have had to depend on the few fragments of historic drawings that we had been able to find. It would have required a lot more field effort on our part to document the exact conditions that exist on the facade in order to do the drawings ourselves. Finally, we probably would have reduced our expectations in terms of accuracy.”

One of Allanbrook's next challenges is to present his firm's recommendations to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Allanbrook believes that the level of detail and accuracy of the Quantapoint base drawings will help win the commission's approval.

In short, Allanbrook and WJE couldn't be more pleased with Quantapoint, which he is already recommending to colleagues. For Quantapoint it could be said this was another win of "historic" proportions.

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