

KANE STREET SYNAGOGUE

C A P I T A L C A M P A I G N

C O N G R E G A T I O N B A I T H I S R A E L A N S H E I E M E S



Exterior Restoration of the Sanctuary Building is Underway

If you have visited Kane Street recently, you have likely noticed that the exterior of the sanctuary building looks quite different. Scaffolding now encircles both the east and west towers and covers the north (Kane Street) façade, reaching up past the roofline.

This exciting milestone represents the commencement of restoration work on the building exterior. It marks the final phase of a process that Kane Street launched several years ago, when we started to take steps to ensure the physical integrity and historic character of the sanctuary exterior.

Guiding Kane Street in this project is Walter B. Melvin Architects (WBMA), a leader in the field of restoration architecture and historic preservation. In late 2015 and early 2016, WBMA principal Robert Bates and his colleagues assessed the extent of façade deterioration and outlined recommendations for the best methods of restoration. Their investigation yielded a number of findings, including loose brickwork, deteriorated mortar joints, voids at brick masonry, and window openings inappropriately closed with wood framing and masonry infill. Evidence of past water infiltration, the poor quality of the original mortar, and the deterioration of the stucco facing were also identified.



Several months ago, guided by WBMA's findings and expertise, Kane Street engaged a general contractor, Nova Construction Services, which specializes in the restoration of building exteriors, including masonry and stucco repair. Drawings and specifications prepared by WBMA will serve as a guide for future restoration work.

Now that Nova has erected the scaffolding, they are preparing for façade restoration. Shop drawings

are being developed; these are plans that provide greater detail than architectural drawings and that take into account existing conditions and exact dimensions. Nova will submit the shop drawings—along with product data, material samples, and mock-ups—to WBMA for review and approval. WBMA will seek additional input from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission during this time period.

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In addition, Nova will perform work within the tower interiors, including the installation of shoring and brick repointing and replacement, which will better stabilize the towers prior to demolition at the upper portions. Towards the end of the winter, Nova will begin removals and partial demolition of the towers and façade and WBMA will perform up-close inspections of underlying conditions and adjust plans as needed. Throughout the construction process, Robert Bates and his colleagues will make periodic site visits to answer questions and to review conditions and progress.

To repair the façade, Nova will utilize a specialized, pre-mixed stucco called *Jahn* to ensure consistent color, texture, and longevity. *Jahn* is formulated to coat specific substrates: in Kane Street's case, brick and brownstone. Joints

will be cut into the stucco coating, which will simulate the look of natural brownstone blocks. The joints will also absorb any cracking that might occur due to normal building movement.

For long-term durability, masonry work such as stucco repair cannot be performed in freezing temperatures or in overly hot weather. Weather permitting, reconstruction work on the towers and north façade is expected to begin in February and continue through the spring. Depending on weather conditions, completion of the stucco work will either continue during the summer or be deferred until cooler fall temperatures.

We could not be more pleased that Kane Street has made such significant strides in our effort to restore the exterior of our beautiful synagogue. We look forward to sharing additional information as the work progresses.



Special Thanks to Our Building Committee

The work on the sanctuary exterior continues to be spearheaded by Kane Street congregants who generously volunteer their time as members of the Building Committee. Committee members for both the interior and exterior sanctuary projects include Ellen Bowin, Hilda Cohen, Judith Greenwald, Miriam Harris, Ariel Krasnow, Mark Kushner, Laurie Lieberman, Chava Ortner, Susan Radin, Susan Rifkin, Joanne Robinson, Howard Schneider, Michael Shelanski and Philippe Visser. We are thankful for their service to our community.