

# University Plaza

**Albany, New York**

**ARCHITECT – John G. Waite Associates, Albany, NY**

**ENGINEER – Ryan-Biggs Associates, Troy, NY**

**CONTRACTOR – Western Building Restoration, Albany, NY**

**DISTRIBUTOR – Keystone Building Supply, Albany, NY**

**Stone Repair  
1999 - 2000**

## PROJECT TASK

Restore the cast stone with exposed aggregate finish.

## PROJECT SOLUTION

Restore the facade with a stone repair mortar and topically applied aggregate to replicate the appearance of the existing cast stone.

## PRODUCTS

Conpro Start  
MIMIC



Top three photographs and bottom left are "before" and "during"; the bottom center and right were taken after the work was completed.



## PROJECT HISTORY

The University Plaza Building, designed by noted architect Marcus T. Reynolds, was constructed between 1914 - 1918. Reynolds is said to have changed the face of downtown Albany more than any other architect of his period. The design of this building is a unique blend of traditional Gothic architecture with a modern reinforced concrete and steel frame. The building has served as State University of New York's administrative headquarters since 1977.

The restoration project began with utilized state-of-the-art, non-destructive techniques to determine the condition of the building components. John G. Waite Associates used historic photographs to reconstruct the cast stone finials that had been removed during a 1970 renovation. The exterior façade is granite with cast stone door surrounds, copings, finials and pinnacles. Each block was examined to record a basis for repair or replacement. Many of the stones were cracked due to rusting elements or disintegrated from leaching of binders.

Stone not replaced or repaired with dutchman was repaired with MIMIC, a cementitious stone repair mortar. The substrate was treated with Conpro Start, a consolidant, to strengthen the cast stone. The exposed aggregate finish was reproduced by topically applying a special aggregate to the surface of the repair mortar. Now, the Flemish Gothic Revival style building is once again the focal point at the foot of State Street in Albany.