

# Morgan Library

**New York City, New York**

**ARCHITECT – Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners LLP, NY**

**CONTRACTOR – The Grenadier Corporation, Bronx, NY**

**DISTRIBUTOR – Garvin Brown Construction Products,  
Long Island City, NY**

**Stone Repair  
Fall 2005 – Fall 2006**

## PROJECT TASK

Resurface decorative exterior features of a prominent 1852 Anglo-Italianate brownstone house.

## PROJECT SOLUTION

Recreate the stonework with an on-site color matched repair mortar.

## PRODUCTS

Matrix



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



## PROJECT HISTORY

Originally constructed in 1852 for banker Anson Phelps Stokes, the son-in-law of financier Isaac Newton Phelps, 231 Madison Avenue has passed through prominent hands throughout its life. J.P. Morgan Sr. purchased it in 1904 for his heir, J.P. Morgan Jr., who lived there from 1905 until his death in 1943. The freestanding Anglo-Italianate brownstone home is perhaps the last of its kind in New York City, and features additions designed by architect R.H. Robertson.

Today, 231 Madison Avenue is part of The Morgan Library & Museum complex. Inside the library walls are 350,000 celebrated treasures from the collections of J.P. Morgan Sr., including: three Gutenberg Bibles, Rembrandt etchings, a journal by Henry David Thoreau, and the original manuscript of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

Brownstone had chipped away from the structure in numerous places. Window ledges, railings, water tables, columns, decorative pieces, and a balcony

edge showed considerable wear. Due to time constraints, Matrix repair mortar was selected because of the capability to match color on-site. The original profiles and shape were recreated to maintain the classic appeal of the stonework. Moreover, many areas were resurfaced with the custom-matched repair mortar. The Matrix was painstakingly brought to a smooth texture with steel finishing tools. Much like the precious items it contains, 231 Madison Avenue has been preserved for many years to come.