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WESTERN CONSTRUCTION GROUP
America's Master Craftsmen in
Building Restoration and Preservation

Celebrating 90 years of Craftsmanship

Western goes nationwide, as expansion and acquisition fuel growth

When George Bishop Sr. and Ben Many founded Western Waterproofing in 1915, quality was the key selling point for their fledgling enterprise. As the company's reputation for craftsmanship spread, Bishop and Many expanded their services to include concrete restoration and masonry repairs. Demand for the company's services grew well beyond the St. Louis area, and Western began opening branch offices to manage projects in distant areas and further expand the company's sales reach.

As the company extended its services into other regions of the country, the scope and size of projects grew. But Western's high standards for quality and craftsmanship remained the same, which is evidenced by the fact that many Western branches are celebrating significant anniversaries of their own. (*See sidebar on page 3.*)

In 1977, Western acquired Brisk Waterproofing Company, an old-line, family-owned company with an excellent reputation for its work in the northeast and standards similar to Western's. The acquisition gave Western greater access to the New York, Boston and Washington, D.C. areas.

In 1995, another major acquisition took place, just in time for Western's 80th anniversary. The Harry S. Peterson Company was acquired from Ohio-based Master Builders, Inc. HSP strengthened

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Western craftsmen handled the waterproofing of the Civil Courts Building (above) when it was built in 1929. The structure still stands proudly in downtown St. Louis (left foreground). Today, it is surrounded by dozens of newer buildings and most have looked to Western's St. Louis branch for assistance in restoration and preservation over the years.

Western Addresses Unexpected at Eight Sixteen Club Condos

Every St. Louis suburb has a personality all its own, and Clayton is no exception. Among the residences contributing to the community's character are genteel condominiums such as the Eight Sixteen Club on South Hanley. The concrete and masonry structure climbs 16 stories, providing residents a superb view of the cityscape.

More than a year ago, Western Waterproofing's St. Louis branch was selected by bid to recaulk and seal Eight Sixteen. As soon as crews scaled the high-rise, however, they saw the structure's deficiencies were more than surface deep. The building's agent, Construction Strategies, Inc. (CSI), called upon the structural engineering firm of Heideman/Associates, Inc. to determine the nature and extent of the problem.

Heideman's examination revealed that age and exposure to the elements had caused deterioration of the structure's steel clips and shelf angles. The firm also determined anchors had corroded due to a chemical reaction with the Sarabond design. Without rapid repair, the integrity of the building was at risk. Western was tapped for the more extensive restoration.

CSI's Vice President Dennis Ham was more than satisfied with the selection. His firm had worked alongside Western on the St. Louis Community Project at Forest Park, "...and they have a very good reputation. That was essential here.

Engineers traced structural problems at the Eight Sixteen Club Condos to two sources: general deterioration caused by age and elements and chemical reactions between anchors and the Sarabond design. Western removed failed components; installed new angles, clips or galvanized shelf angles; then replaced and sealed exterior brick.

"Any time you have a multi-owner residential project such as this, and people learn there is a potential problem in their condos, some panic sets in. Probably the greatest challenge we faced—beyond the initial shock for residents—was performing the work in a fully occupied building. Some of these people are elderly, and some have medical problems, so it was important that we let them know well in advance of our plans. Noise and safety were key issues, and Western's people were very courteous throughout. It was a delight to work with them."

Repairing the Eight Sixteen Club required the removal of existing brick to expose failing angles and clips and installing new angles, clips or galvanized shelf angles in their place. New brick was then installed and sealant applied at the vertical joints.

The project was completed in Fall 2004.

Safety and communication issues were of utmost importance as the highrise condominiums were fully occupied throughout the course of repair. Western won high praise from owners and managers on both counts.

Owner: *The Eight Sixteen Club, Inc. Condominiums, Clayton, MO*
Construction Manager: *Construction Strategies, Inc.*
Engineer: *Heideman/Associates, Inc.*

PROJECT TEAM
Branch Manager: *Bill Hohmeier*
Project Superintendent: *Lester Anderson*
Foreman Bricklayer: *Lance Wakeland*
Lead Journeyman Bricklayer: *Jake Davidson*

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Western's presence in a number of major markets and strongly complemented Western's services in the areas of epoxy injection, concrete restoration and parking deck repairs.

Western's steady growth can be attributed to well-planned branch expansions and astute acquisitions that complemented the company's line of business. But if you ask CEO Ben Bishop Jr. why Western has been a thriving enterprise for 90 years, he puts "family spirit" at the top of the list.

"Family values have become almost a cliché in recent years, but that's really what built this company," Bishop said. "Of course, we're dedicated to quality work. But you can't achieve quality consistently unless you have people who can work as a team, with trust and respect for each other. Those values are truly the legacy of my grandfather and great uncle."

The importance of building solid relationships with colleagues and customers has been passed down through three generations of Bishops who have managed Western. But the family spirit doesn't end there. Western boasts many families with two, three and even four generations of craftsmen who have called the company "home."

The Diehls have been part of the company since its inception and the family is now in its fourth generation with Western. Other multi-generation families include the Radigans, Sheehans, Rechtins, Williams, and Dupuys.

"In celebrating this 90th anniversary, there is so much to be proud of," Bishop commented. "The work we've done in restoring structures, among them some of this country's most famous landmarks. The growth of the company over the years. The reputation for quality we've built.

"But none of that would have been possible without the people who've been part of Western. They're the real key to our success and they are what make me most proud. And I believe my grandfather and great uncle would agree with me."

In 2004, Western Construction Group received the Family Business of the Year Award from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Representing the second and third generation of the Bishop family management are (left to right): Mike Bishop, Vice President; Ben Bishop Jr., President and CEO; Ben Bishop Sr., Chairman of the Board; and Daniel Bishop, Operations Manager.

Western Branches Mark Milestones

The Western Construction Group has grown steadily over its 90-year history. In large part, this growth is due to the success of the company's branches, many of which are also celebrating significant anniversaries in 2005:

Western Waterproofing Company
St. Louis, Mo. 90

Western Waterproofing Company
Atlanta, Ga. 75

Brisk Waterproofing Company
Boston, Mass. 65

Western Waterproofing Company
Springfield, Ill. 60

Western Waterproofing Company
Kansas City, Mo. 60

Western Waterproofing Company
Little Rock, Ark. 55

Western Waterproofing Company
New Orleans, La. 55

Western Waterproofing Company
Des Moines, Iowa 45

Western Waterproofing Company
San Francisco, Calif. 40

Western Restoration & Waterproofing Co.
Cincinnati, Ohio 15

Harry S. Peterson Company
Philadelphia, Pa. 10

Harry S. Peterson Company
Pittsburgh, Pa. 10

Harry S. Peterson Company
Cleveland, Ohio 10

Harry S. Peterson Company
Chicago, Ill. 10

Western Waterproofing Company
Seattle, Wash. 10

Western Waterproofing Company
Portland, Ore. 10

Western Roofing & Insulation
St. Louis, Mo. 5

Western Waterproofing Company
San Antonio, Texas 5

Celebrating 90 years of Craftsmanship

The positive impact made by Western and its member companies can be seen clearly throughout the United States. From historic landmarks to sports venues to architectural treasures, some of the nation's most famous structures have benefited from Western's craftsmanship.

Michigan Ornamental Metals

Metal Fabrication Firm Adds a New Dimension to Western Services

Restoring ornate architectural masterpieces to their original glory is nothing new to the Western Construction Group. Using a range of skills, the company's craftsmen have found innovative ways to repair decades of damage while preserving the style and beauty of many American landmarks.

With the acquisition of Michigan Ornamental Metals, Western has added an exciting new facet to its capabilities. The metal fabricator is located in Ridgefield, NJ, and specializes in the manufacturing of high-quality metal ornamentation for preservation and restoration products.

Using the techniques and equipment similar to what was used to create the originals, Michigan Ornamental produces replacements for damaged metal pieces that adorned the facades of buildings built at the turn of the last century.

"Our presses are hand-operated," explained Jim Barton, manager of Michigan Ornamental. "With automatic presses, you give up some of the dexterity and finesse needed to produce the detail and quality we want."

The company does ornamental stampings in copper, zinc, lead-coated copper and aluminum. Stampings can be created from drawings or from molds made from original pieces. Using a stamping hammer with a work size of 48" x 32", the firm has the ability to fabricate full cornices, roofing and roof tiles, finials, rosettes and stamped ceilings.

Simple cornices, panels, trim gutters, moldings, brackets and other pieces are fabricated using metal hand brake machines. The company also can produce metal extrusions, such as brackets and fittings, milling and coating or painting them to specifications.

Jim Barton, company manager, has more than 30 years of experience in metal casting and fabrication. His association with Western goes back nearly 20 years.

"When the exterior of the General Electric Building was restored in 1986, I cast the aluminum 'head-dresses' on the crown of the building," Barton explained. "I also worked on the Guardian Life Building, making the dies for stamping the replacement pieces of copper ornamentation.

"Currently, we're producing specially-designed support angles for a project for Western Waterproofing in Seattle," he continued. "Being able to handle top quality metal work in house is just a logical extension of Western's services. Western handles such a variety of interesting projects, I'm looking forward to working with other branches all over the country."

View more of Michigan Ornamental Metals' work at www.michiganornamental.com.

Going the extra mile...

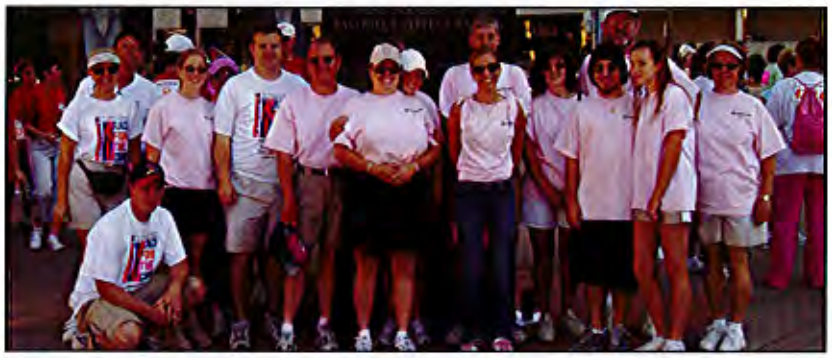
Western Helps St. Louis "Race for the Cure" Reach $2 Million Mark

All across the nation, breast cancer warriors, their families and friends are taking part in the Susan Komen "Race for the Cure." The annual event is not only raising awareness of the impact of the disease, it's raising millions of dollars for breast cancer research and support.

This summer's race saw 62,000 St. Louis residents turning out to walk, run and roll to a $2 million finish line. Only Denver saw more race participants. Of the total raised, $500,000 went to national research programs, with the remaining $1.5 put to use in local breast cancer detection and treatment efforts.

Western Construction Group was proud to have a 20-member team among the St. Louis participants. Their efforts were backed by a gift from Western as part of the company's community commitment program. It encourages individual branches to identify worthwhile causes in their local area to support financially and as volunteers.

Other charitable causes receiving Western support in 2005 include the United Way, Make A Wish Foundation, Holiday Day of Caring, the Alzheimer's Association and Fair St. Louis.



Chicago Area Site of First Western Golf Classic

This summer, two members of Western Construction Group "joint ventured" a golf match to express their thanks to customers. It marked the first time the Chicago-based branches of Western Waterproofing Co. and Harry S. Peterson Co. had collaborated in such an event. And from the positive response of all involved, it certainly won't be the last. In fact, plans for the 2nd Annual Golf Classic are already in the making.

Nearly 75 were on hand June 16 at Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale, Ill., for the four-person scramble. Prizes ranged from gift certificates and golf balls to a Ford® Mustang for a hole-in-one on the 13th Hole. Sponsors for the event included Brand Scaffold, Inc.; Gilco Scaffolding Company; The Glenrock Co.; JE Tomes; Lance Supplies, Inc.; Lymtal; NES Rentals; O'Leary's Equipment and Supply Co., Inc.; Stone Mountain Access Systems, Inc.; Turek & Sons Supplies; and Unitex.

To all involved in making this inaugural event a success, *thanks!*

PARTIAL LISTING OF RECENT PROJECTS COMPLETED OR IN PROGRESS

PROJECT NAME AND LOCATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Allen Field House University of Kansas Lawrence, Kan.	Exterior Cleaning and Sealing
Memorial Stadium University of Missouri Columbia, Mo.	Concrete Restoration, Expansion Joints and Coatings
Brooklyn Historical Society Brooklyn, New York	Masonry Restoration
Pierce Hall University of Chicago Chicago, Ill.	Masonry Restoration
Cliff House San Francisco, Calif.	Historical Restoration and Waterproofing
Wyndam Hotel Denver, Colo.	Caulking
Drake Stadium Drake University Des Moines, Iowa	Concrete Restoration
Legion Field Birmingham, Ala.	Concrete Restoration
Westin Hotel Seattle, Wash.	Concrete Restoration
Raleigh-Durham International Airport Garage Raleigh-Durham, N.C.	Concrete Restoration
A.G. Edwards St. Louis, Mo.	Roofing
Altoona Parking Garage Altoona, Pa.	Post-tension Repair
Forrest Memorial Hospital Hattiesburg, Miss.	Waterproofing, Coating and Vertical Expansion Joints
#11 Waverly Place New York, N.Y.	Masonry Restoration and Roof Deck Replacement
Christy Mathewson-Memorial Stadium Bucknell University Lewisburg, Pa.	Concrete Restoration

MIT Building Benefits from Brisk's "Higher Degree" of Expertise

The Dreyfus Chemistry Building is one of numerous global landmarks designed by MIT architectural graduate I. M. Pei. The seven-level structure contains 132,000 gross square feet of research and educational space.

Owner: *Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, Mass.*
Historic Consultant: *Preservation Technology Associates*
Managing Branch: *Brisk Waterproofing Company Woburn, Mass.*

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is respected globally for its rigorous academics and far-reaching advances. So when a landmark chemistry building on the school's main campus required restoration to correct aging and exposure deterioration, Western Construction Group member Brisk Waterproofing was honored to get the call.

The Dreyfus Chemistry Building—also known as Building 18—was designed by I. M. Pei, himself an MIT architectural graduate. Pei's portfolio includes some of the world's most recognizable landmarks, including the expansion of the Louvre Museum in Paris and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland.

Serving students since 1967, Dreyfus Chemistry Building spans some 132,000 gross square feet on seven levels—five above ground, two below. It is the headquarters for the school's chemistry studies and MIT's primary research facility for synthetic organic chemistry and biochemistry.

Given the building's historic and architectural prominence, Dr. Judith Selwyn of Preservation Technology Association, was called upon to consult with the restoration team. Once the authenticity of restoration plans was confirmed, crews from Brisk's Boston branch went to work.

After cleaning the building exterior, crews patched compromised concrete and replaced sealants. Approximately 4,500 lineal feet of concrete cracks were injected with epoxy. The building's exterior was then coated with clear water repellant to protect against future moisture exposure.

Brisk Waterproofing crews cleaned the building exterior, patched compromised concrete and replaced sealants. Epoxy was injected into approximately 4,500 lineal feet of concrete cracks.

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Member Companies:

Western Waterproofing Company
Brisk Waterproofing Company
Harry S. Peterson Company
Western Restoration & Waterproofing Company
Western Roofing & Insulation Company
Michigan Ornamental Metals

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