



Restoring Legacy: Revitalizing the Youngstown Historical Center with Timeless Glass Block Design

Discover how the Youngstown Historical Center's glass block system was expertly restored, preserving its industrial legacy while ensuring durability for decades to come.

Architect:

Meta von Rabenau

Customer & General**Contractor:**

Youngstown Historical Center
of Industry and Labor

Owner:

Ohio Historical Connection

Products:

Pittsburgh Corning 8" x 8" x 3"
Decora Glass Block

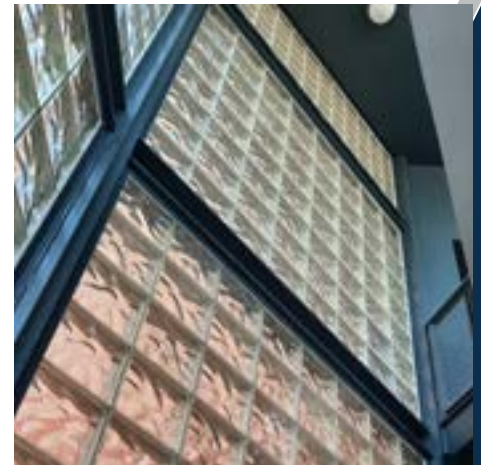
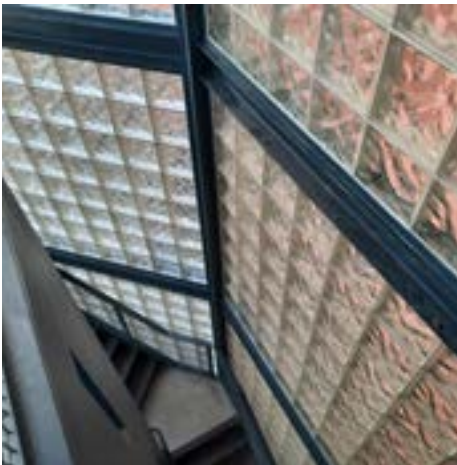
Opportunity

The Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor, a monument to the steel industry and its workers, faced the challenge of maintaining its architectural integrity while ensuring the long-term durability of its glass block system. The back entrance of the building, constructed using Decora glass blocks set in steel framing, had suffered wear and tear over the years. The Ohio Historical Society sought a solution to preserve the structure's historical character while ensuring the glass block system would remain functional for at least another 30 years, maintaining the building's connection to the region's industrial past. The project also aimed to update the aging structure with modern materials and techniques while preserving the authenticity of its original design.

Solution

GBA Architectural Products was called upon to restore the glass block system. After an on-site consultation with lead architect Meta Von Rabenau, a plan was devised to replace any damaged blocks and upgrade the mortar and sealant components. GBA procured the same Pittsburgh Corning Decora glass blocks to maintain consistency and restore the structure to its original condition. Additionally, the steel framing was treated, primed, and painted to replicate the look of the building from its opening day, and new, modern sealants were applied to prevent moisture penetration, ensuring the system's longevity.

[View](#) more Youngstown Historical Center photos in our website gallery.



Outcome

The restoration was a complete success, preserving the architectural integrity of the Youngstown Historical Center while modernizing its glass block system for future durability. The final result not only maintained the building's historical significance but also provided an additional 30 years of peak performance. Architect Meta Von Rabenau praised the project for meeting her expectations and securing the building's structural and aesthetic legacy for years to come.



GBA Architectural Products + Services
1213 Medina Road, Medina, OH 44256
(877) 280-7700
sales@gbaproducts.com
gbaproducts.com

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