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Quarra Stone Tapped for National Restoration Projects

Quarra Provides Restoration Expertise and Custom Carving for Showcase Renovations launched by the Curtis Institute, Kansas Statehouse and the New York State Capitol. Quarra also recently completed restoration work for Yale's Iconic Harkness Tower

*Madison, WI—November 20, 2010 – **Quarra Stone**, the Madison, WI based company that supplies and fabricates natural stone for signature architectural projects in North America has been tapped for three high profile renovation projects: the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, PA; the Kansas “Statehouse” in Topeka, KS and the New York State Capitol in Albany, NY. Quarra is nationally recognized for its work on historic landmarks and most recently completed an eight- month long custom carving project that involved production of intricate architectural elements for the restoration of Yale’s iconic Harkness Tower.*

Jim Durham, president and founder of Quarra Stone, observed that Quarra has strategically planned to execute the complex scope of services entailed in preserving historic architecture that range from professional on-site field dimensioning to re-opening abandoned quarries to find a seamless match for the original stone and a stone carving team that is equally comfortable utilizing the latest designer software technology and the traditional, centuries-old tools of the trade, the hammer and chisel.

“The more elaborate the requirements of the assignment such as our recent experience with Yale’s Harkness Tower, the better”, said Mr. Durham.

“Quarra has built the top stone carving team in the country and we are heavily invested in the latest technology for design and production. Coupled with our knowledge of and connections with world-wide stone resources, Quarra has unparalleled capacity to deliver the most demanding specialty jobs seamlessly.”

The Projects:

Kansas Statehouse Topeka, KS

A multi-stage, five-year exterior restoration project of the Italian Renaissance Revival-style Kansas Statehouse with a team of eight master carvers hand-carving hundreds of ornate medallions, decorative elements and Corinthian column capitols using locally quarried stone.

- Some estimated 26,000 pieces comprise the project now in its final phase.*
- Quarra conducted a nation-wide search to select some of the country’s most accomplished stone carvers to join Quarra’s team for this milestone project.*
- A long abandoned quarry in Junction City, KS- that had been decommissioned- was reopened to find a perfect match for some of the limestone being utilized to refurbish and replicate original details.*

MARK 1 Restoration Company, Chicago, IL is the masonry contractor for the project

Curtis Institute of Music Philadelphia, PA

Restoration and ornate stone work for a major expansion project for the renowned Curtis Institute of Music in downtown Philadelphia. The multi-purpose project, Lenfest Hall, will sensitively incorporate two historic brownstone facades and a new set-back tower to house state of the art rehearsal and practice space, teaching facilities as well as student residences.

- *Restoration work includes fabrication of elaborate cornice and balcony details and recreating highly decorative, monumentally scaled Mosinee Sandstone arch for an original bay window that highlights the entry.*
- *Custom stonework for the new structure includes limestone windowsills, Belmont Sandstone decorative banding and Curtis Institute signature letter/logo carved from Belmont Sandstone. The stone used for the main portion of the building is Terainia Sandstone.*

Joseph Dugan Company, Erdenheim, PA is the masonry contractor for the restoration component.

AB&S, Rockledge, PA is the contractor for the new building structure in the expansion project.

New York State Capitol Albany, NY

Constructed in the Romanesque and Renaissance Revival style, the New York State Capitol was constructed over three decades. Restoration of the state Capitol is an ambitious multi-year initiative to protect and preserve the National Historic Landmark.

- *For the NYSC project, Quarra had to qualify all nine carvers on the team for their expertise in carving sandstone and granite through a rigorous selection process. Among the requirements was for each carver to meticulously complete a 14 x 20 inch carving reflecting the design of an existing capital in both granite and sandstone.*
- *In the Capitol's Assembly Staircase, Quarra's restoration work includes reconstructing a cantilevered stone balcony utilizing Wallace sandstone as well as fabricating segments of the highly ornamental cornice.*

- *In the Tower Hall the scope of work includes decorative arches, elaborate friezes and column capitals all crafted from Hallowell Granite.*

Consigli Construction Company, Milford, MA is the construction contractor for the New York State Capitol project.

About Quarra Stone

Headquartered in Madison, WI, Quarra Stone fabricates and supplies architectural and interior stone for signature building projects throughout the United States in collaboration with many of the country's leading institutions and premier architectural teams on some of America's most prominent architectural landmarks and new award-winning architecture. Quarra is recognized for its technological innovation and leadership in the world's stone marketplace and for its distinguished portfolio of high profile national projects such as Yale University's Bass Library and Harkness Tower, the U. S. Supreme Court and the restoration of the Kansas State Capitol. Recently, Quarra completed its largest project, the newly opened Capitol Visitor Center in Washington D.C. which is expected to host three million visitors a year. Please contact us at 608/246-8803 or visit us at www.quarrastone.com