Michael Gilbert

Chief Rigger and CAD Technician

Experience

Mike Gilbert has worked as a technician for Vertical Access since 1995. He brings twenty years of experience in the vertical world of rock climbing and has applied these talents and experiences to the techniques of industrial roped access work as VA's Chief Rigger.

His understanding of materials and preservation issues has been gained largely on the job, working closely with leading preservation architects, structural engineers and conservators. In addition to his hands-on field experience, Mike has completed courses on stone and brick masonry restoration, and attended seminars on the conservation of historic sheet metal, wood, slate, terra cotta, concrete, brick and stone. His Bachelor of Science degree is in Biological Sciences, from Cornell University.

Mike also heads up the Vertical Access CAD department. He has completed a three-semester course on AutoCAD drafting at Tompkins Cortland Community College. Mike manages the technical side of the use of hand-held computing devices that Vertical Access continues to develop and has been instrumental in VA's Tablet PC annotation System (TPAS™) for field surveys. Mike is also fluent in the use of rectified digital photography, using PhotoModeler, a photogrammetric tool for creating scaled working drawings.

Education

- Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
  Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Sciences, *2002*
- Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dryden, NY
  Courses in AutoCAD Drafting, *2002-03*

Representative Projects

- Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse, New York, NY
  Comprehensive façade inspection.
- State University of New York
  at Albany Water Tower, Albany, NY
  Investigated conditions of steel cladding, weld connections and frame of 227-foot tall water and bell tower.
- Skill Bridges, New York
  Assisted with investigation structural steel members, deck beams and other difficult to reach areas on three arched bridges.
- Saint Mary's Church, Binghamton, NY
  Installed netting to temporarily stabilize exfoliating stone.
- The Chrysler Building, New York, NY
  Conducted spray testing to identify locations of water infiltration into stainless steel cladding.
- The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, New York, NY
  Surveyed exterior stone masonry. Installed crack gauges with remote data logging.
- Buffalo City Hall, Buffalo, NY
  Drafted elevation drawings using Tablet PC and Rope Access. Performed unit-by-unit survey of stone and terra cotta tower using Tablet PC.

Professional Affiliations

- Society of Professional Roped Access Technicians (SPRAT), *certified technician*
- Association for Preservation Technology International (APTI), *member*

Publication

- "The Development and Use of a Tablet PC Annotation System for Conditions Surveys," with Kent Diebolt and James V. Banta in *APT Bulletin* 37 (2-3, 2006): 39-45.

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