

New York State Pavilion Observation Towers Flushing, NY



Original architect and engineer:

Philip Johnson with Richard Foster and Lev Zetlin
(completed in 1964)

Structure owner:

New York City Department of Parks and
Recreation

In collaboration with:

The Sparks Electric Company (2006)
RTKL Associates (2011)

Structure description:

Commissioned by the state of New York for the 1964 World's Fair in New York City (Queens), the Pavilion included the New York State Theater, Tent of Tomorrow and Observation Towers.

Perhaps the most impressive structures in the Pavilion, and the most recognizable, are the three observation towers measuring 85, 181 and 226 feet tall. These observation towers were the tallest structures at the Fair. Capsule-sized elevators were used to reach the top of the towers.

Scope of work:

- Conducted emergency replacement of light bulbs in FAA beacon.
- Conducted complete access consultation to make recommendations about future maintenance of the beacon, including recommendations regarding access alternatives and installation of an updated, efficient luminaire.
- Performed hands-on investigation of steel decks and concrete columns.
- Took core samples and opened probes as part of investigation.
- Characterized structural members.

