



Phase 2B

In this slide show:

Ornamental Plaster Repairs

September 30, 2012



In the 1950s and 60s the King Street Station underwent some major “modernization” efforts. Marble panels on the walls were removed to make way for plastic laminate and gypsum wallboards. Chandeliers and wall sconces were replaced with fluorescent fixtures. The ornamental plaster ceiling was also covered up by the installation of an acoustical dropped ceiling. This photo showed all the puncture holes of the historic plaster ceiling being repaired.



The idea of the lowered ceiling was to conserve heating and brighten up the space with cool white fluorescent light. In order to do so, much of the original plaster ceiling was drilled into for tension attachments.



The intricate ornamental plaster work was forgotten and covered up for over 5 decades.



A rosette detail of the ornamental plaster ceiling.



Since the City of Seattle took over ownership of King Street Station in 2008, SDOT has carried out multiple phases of rehabilitation work. Patches, repairs, and re-construction of missing plaster work is currently underway to once again show off the timeless beauty of this ceiling.



Large original plaster around a column removed for restoration.



A corner wrap portion being repaired.



Upon close inspection one can see the incredible craftsmanship in the original plaster pieces.



New molds and frames were constructed for the plaster restoration.



Vytaflex is one of the key compound used to cast new replacement plaster.



Replacement plaster casted in its forms.



Cornice detail



Newly casted plaster must be covered overnight to allow for curing to proper strength.



Styrofoam shown serves as a molding form for new plaster casting.



A fresh piece of clay-like molded plaster as seen from the bottom.



Plaster detail almost fully restored.