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Project Profile: American International Construction Begins Restoration at BW's Marting Hall

Based out of Berea, American International Construction, Restoration Contractors has been making its mark over the past 32 years by completing an impressive array of projects. American International recently began work on the oldest classroom building on the campus of Baldwin-Wallace College: the famed Marting Hall.

The four-year, phased exterior façade restoration program encompasses stone restoration, façade cleaning, recaulking and waterproofing of the structure, which was built in 1895 and is on the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places.

"There are many impressive and historically relevant buildings at Baldwin-Wallace College but Marting Hall is truly an architectural marvel," says Michael Petrasek, president of American International. "We are honored to have been chosen to restore this hidden treasure."

The building is located on Seminary Street in Berea and sits adjacent to two other equally inspiring structures that American International has made their mark on: the Lindsay Crossman Memorial Chapel, built in 1872, and Dietsch Hall, constructed circa 1899. Both buildings are made from Berea quarried sandstone and are most impressive façades.

The Chapel restoration was an extensive four-year program restoring the sandstone façade with current technology and products but more importantly with old world craftsmanship.

Other noted and significant historic restoration projects completed by American International are the Kinsman Presbyterian Church, Kulas Musical Arts Building and Burrell Memorial Observatory.

American International has been noted as one of the area leaders in exterior building façade restoration and also provides its services on a national basis. Current projects are underway in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Syracuse, Detroit and Lansing, Michigan to name a few.

Based on an uncompromising commitment to quality in the work it performs, American International has gained a national reputation for excellence and continues to grow as a strong and viable organization. **P**

different sized users, starting at \$9.95/month, and each is assigned a monthly fee. The first 30 days is free, and signing up for one level doesn't restrict a company from upgrading to another level at any time as the need dictates. Simply click on the package desired, enter the information requested and the site sends back an

email confirmation. Click on that and you're ready to start.

Beginning couldn't be easier: simply start by creating a project, adding rooms to the project, adding users to the team, and adding products to each room. Changes are simple and propagated in real time. As each product is added, it

is also added to a user library and so is available for other rooms or even other projects for that user.

The organizational framework of the software is based on a project and project team framework. Project information is input at the design team level on a project-by-project and room-by-room basis. (Myers insisted that the commercial world's protocol of assigning room numbers be followed.) This way, as final selections and designs for a project would be completed on a room by room basis, the designers would use the software to not only log all the selections but be able to communicate those selections to designated leaders of the construction team. An added benefit is that all the room-by-room, project-by-project information is retained as long as the subscription is maintained – so it is simple to refer back to a closed project and find item/sku/vendor information related to specific pieces of a final design. Although Myers, his design team, and his field personnel, have been using DesignOrganizer since last winter, the site was unveiled only this spring at the local ASID show Sourcery, and only just now is being promoted via public ad campaigns.

Property management

Of course, users can utilize the product in other ways. For example, some have adopted the software for use as an easy Property Management inventory tool. Firms that have multiple office or real estate locations will find DesignOrganizer useful in cataloging fixtures and inventory on an office-by-office and location-by-location basis. Using DesignOrganizer would make answering a question like, "What desks are in the Boston manager's office and where did we get them?" simple and easy to answer. Or for a retail strip owner: "What lights did we put into the parking lot in our Woodmere location and where did we get them?" Once the information is in DesignOrganizer, it's there until you remove it. **P**

DesignOrganizer is available at www.designorganizer.com. For more info, email Robert Myers at rob@designorganizer.com.