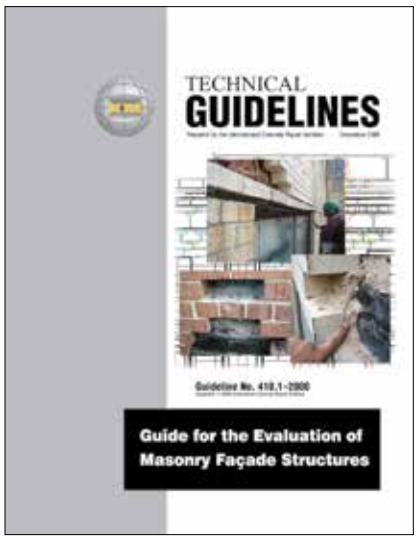
UPDATE FROM THE ICRI 410 MASONRY COMMITTEE

BY PATRICK MORRISSEY



As co-chair of the ICRI 410 Masonry Committee, it has been my pleasure and privilege to work with some of the key players involved in the evaluation, diagnosis, specification and restoration of masonry structures throughout the United States, and as far away as Angkor Wat in Cambodia. While the creed in historic preservation has always been "Do no harm," it is most gratifying to see that this mantra is now being addressed by many of our owners, specifiers, contractors, and manufacturers at ICRI. The shift from a "Rip-Out-and-Replace" mentality to a more forgiving "Stabilize-in-Place" approach to the conservation of our built environment provides a very clear path to how we want history to look back at our repair industry.

The 410 Masonry Committee has previously produced a document, "**Guide for the Evaluation of Masonry Façade Structures**.[1]" This guideline describes the tools, techniques, and processes that are used in the evaluation of masonry façade structures. It offers background into the history and evolution of masonry structure design and construction. Another guideline expected to be released soon, "**Guide for the Repair and Strengthening of Masonry Façade Structures**" will be the next issue in this series. Every effort is being made to get this document out of committee, reviewed by the Technical Activities Committee (TAC), and made available to the membership.

The committee is also working on another document, "**In-place Restoration and Stabilization of Architectural Terra Cotta,**" which is expected to be presented to TAC at the ICRI 2016 Fall Convention in Cleveland. This document will be the first in a series of Practice Guides, focusing on a "how to" approach. When published and combined with the "Terra Cotta Standard Construction,[2]" masonry restoration specifiers and contractors will not only have the basics for almost all architectural Terra Cotta installations, but also a guideline for its maintenance, repair and potential replacement.

The next task for the committee has, so far, only been loosely defined as a guideline for masonry cleaning. This guide will not look at specific manufacturers but will try to develop a chart for all known means, methods and materials based on generic terms including, but not limited to, chemicals by composition (not industry name), abrasive and micro abrasive systems, poultices, and water misting. The chart anticipated to be generated at this time is expected to have "substrate" as the vertical axis and the "means, method and material" as the horizontal axis. Further refinements and "filling in" the appropriate cross cells are expected to include either a "Good, Better, Best" designation or a numerical (say 1-5) scale relating to anticipated performance. At this time, there doesn't seem to be a "go to" primer for consideration when masonry cleaning is needed on a project. It is hoped that this guideline will assist both the novice and the experienced professional with an easy-to-use roadmap for initially considering all masonry cleaning possibilities. I am sure we can all point to a project where there were only one or two "cut and pasted" paragraphs in the specifications addressing the cleaning methods to be employed on a project, resulting in significant change orders when the intent and specified materials did not meet the expectation of the owner or specifier. When it comes to the cleaning of a masonry structure, it is imperative that the specifications be "objective" and not "subjective". It is equally important for larger scale projects that the decision for "which means, method and/or material(s)" are to be used be clearly spelled out as determined by a complete testing program prior to bid preparation and solicitation. Significant change orders and time delays can be averted when a unique proven solu-

tion is specified for the project. The costs associated with vetting the cleaning method and/or products, prior to going out to bid, can be significantly reduced if you work closely with your potential vendors during the review and evaluation process.

To all members of Committee 410, past and present, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts. For those individuals who would like to get involved with our current committee efforts, please reach out to either me or fellow co-chair, John Wathne, or visit the ICRI website at http://www.icri.org/?page=Join_Committee to fill out a committee member application.

REFERENCES

1. ICRI Committee 410, "Guide for the Evaluation of Masonry Façade Structures (ICRI 410.1 - 2008)," International Concrete Repair Institute, St. Paul, MN, 2008, 38 pp.

2. National Terra Cotta Society, "Terra Cotta Standard Construction," New York, NY, 1927.

Patrick J. Morrissey *has worked in the construction industry as a technical representative for almost 40 years, representing products used in concrete rehabilitation for 27 years, and specifically on preservation projects for the past 15 years, more recently for historic preservation with an emphasis on structural strengthening and stabilization. After being vice-president of Windsor Probe Test Systems in the mid-1970s, he founded ConSpec Associates, Inc. in August 1976. He graduated as a Civil Engineer from Manhattan College, Bronx, NY in 1967. Morrissey, an ICRI Fellow, has served on the ICRI Board and various committees, and is currently co-chair of the ICRI 410 Masonry Committee. He was also founding member of the New England, Connecticut and Metro-New York ICRI Chapters. Morrissey is currently on the Board of APT and served on ASTM F-06 Committee regarding resilient floors. Morrissey is founder of "Means, Methods and Materials for Restoration of the Built Environment", a LinkedIn group which has almost 4500 members, is active in 56 different countries, and provides restoration information from some of the top professionals in the industry.*