

History in the Maintenance

Renovating the Union Station Hotel in Nashville

The Union Station Nashville Yards has a long history, first being erected in 1900 as a terminal on the L&N Railroad, and, in 1986, being transformed into a luxury boutique hotel. The distinctive historic architecture, including a large, arched skylight running across the entire central hub, provides a beautiful aesthetic selling point for guests. >

“If I’m in Nashville, I wouldn’t even entertain the idea of hiring anybody else.” >

BRAND > **SAFWAY**®

At Work For You®

› However, when the aging building required access to the entire exterior for painting, roofing and maintenance, those same architectural highpoints led to engineering challenges that demanded creative solutions.

“This was a unique project. We couldn’t tie-in to the building or do anything that might disturb the historical integrity of the stone,” said Randy Anderson, co-owner of Hospitality Remodels LLC, the general contractor for the project. “It took some serious engineering to create a solution, but BrandSafway stepped right in and took the bull by the horns to make that happen.”



The building was completely wrapped in Systems™ Scaffold. ⤴

Scaffold façades

The first part of the plan was to completely wrap the building in Systems™ Scaffold. On the east, west and most of the north side, the scaffold could be built from the ground up to provide full access for workers.

It was the south side of the building that had the first challenge. There is a steep drop off that leads into a parking lot. Connecting the hotel to the lot is a roofed patio that is directly attached to the building along the entire back wall. A scaffold built from the ground up would be blocked by the deck, so the scaffold would have to be erected on top of the patio’s roof. However, by itself, the roof did not have the strength to support that weight. Reshoring

had to be installed along the underside of it to provide the needed load capacity.

Roof is the limit

The roof of the main building also faced load-bearing challenges. Work needed to be done on the two towers that rise out of it: the smoke tower to the south and the clock tower to the north. The central skylight runs from end to end between the two structures, limiting the roof’s load capacity. This meant that the upper elevations of the towers couldn’t be accessed with a traditional scaffold build as it would be too heavy.

Swing stages could provide the necessary



Swing stages could provide the necessary vertical access. ⤴

vertical access; however, due to the architecture atop the towers, there was nowhere to mount swing stages on either structure. To make swing stages a viable solution, they would have to be hung from scaffold, and it would have to be done in a way that limited the pressure put on the roof.

Steel beams and swings

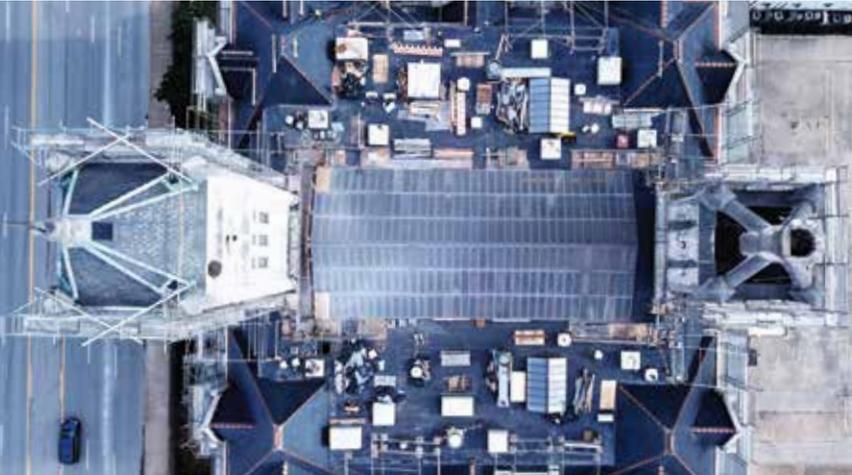
Forty-foot steel beams were used to span the skylight, and 24-foot beams were attached to them, connecting the initial beams to the scaffolding on the northern and southern façades. Scaffold was then built off the 24-foot beams on the east and west sides of the towers, and swing stages were suspended between them. This set up provided access to the interior-facing sides of towers without

allowing the reaction going down into the beams to exceed the roof's load capacity.

The street-facing side of the clock tower required a similar solution. It overlooks the entrance, which has its own roofed entryway. The roof wouldn't be capable of supporting the scaffolding, and reshoring it would block pedestrian movement, so a swing stage was suspended from the scaffold on this side of the tower as well.

Cost-efficient solution

The project was completed on time with no damage to the historic property and zero safety incidents. BrandSafway's portion of the work

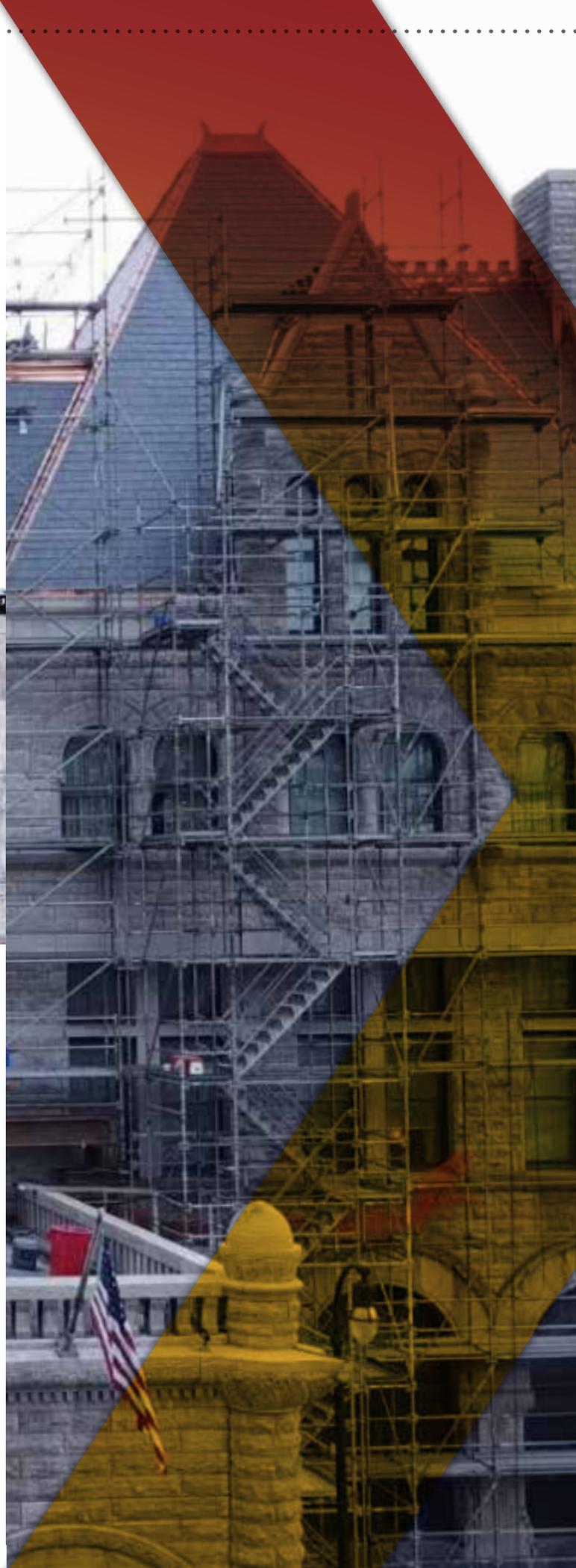


The central skylight runs from end to end between the two structure. 

came in substantially below budget, saving the customer tens of thousands of dollars.

“The BrandSafway team was very professional, and they created a great, cost-effective solution,” said Anderson. “If I’m in Nashville, I wouldn’t even entertain the idea of hiring anybody else.”

“It took some serious engineering to create a solution, but BrandSafway stepped right in and took the bull by the horns to make that happen.” 



Project Summary

Project:  Union Station Hotel Restoration

Location:  Nashville, Tennessee

Dates:  August to December 2020

Scope of Work:  Access and engineering services for cleaning, painting and roofing

Products/Services:  Systems Scaffold, swing stages, engineering

Safety:  Zero incidents

“The BrandSafway team was very professional, and they created a great, cost-effective solution.” 



Brand Industrial Services, Inc.
1325 Cobb International Dr. Ste A-1
Kennesaw, GA USA 30152
Toll free: 800 558 4772

BRAND  **SAFWAY**®

For more information, visit www.BrandSafway.com