

## Chrysler Building

*Spire and Facade Restoration*  
New York, New York

Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award *from New York Landmarks Conservancy*

Designed by architect William Van Alen for industrial magnate Walter P. Chrysler; the building was the tallest of its time when completed in 1929, and represented the first time stainless steel had been used as a cladding material on a major commercial building. Over time, however, the building suffered deterioration through the effects of weather; airborne pollutants, and construction defects in the steel relieving angles.

Hoffmann Architects' investigation found deterioration at the brick tower; at masonry supporting ornamental sculptures, and at the stainless steel spire and dome-like tower. The design team also identified areas of displaced brick and of water infiltration into tenant spaces. To restore the integrity of this important structure, the firm designed and oversaw a program of repairs, reconstruction, cleaning, and polishing of the spire, facade, and windows, as well as of the various gargoyles, "heads of Mercury," and other unique ornamentation. The brick tower was repaired, repointed, and cleaned.

Through Hoffmann Architects' award-winning restoration, the distinctive gleam of this beloved landmark once again greeted the city.

