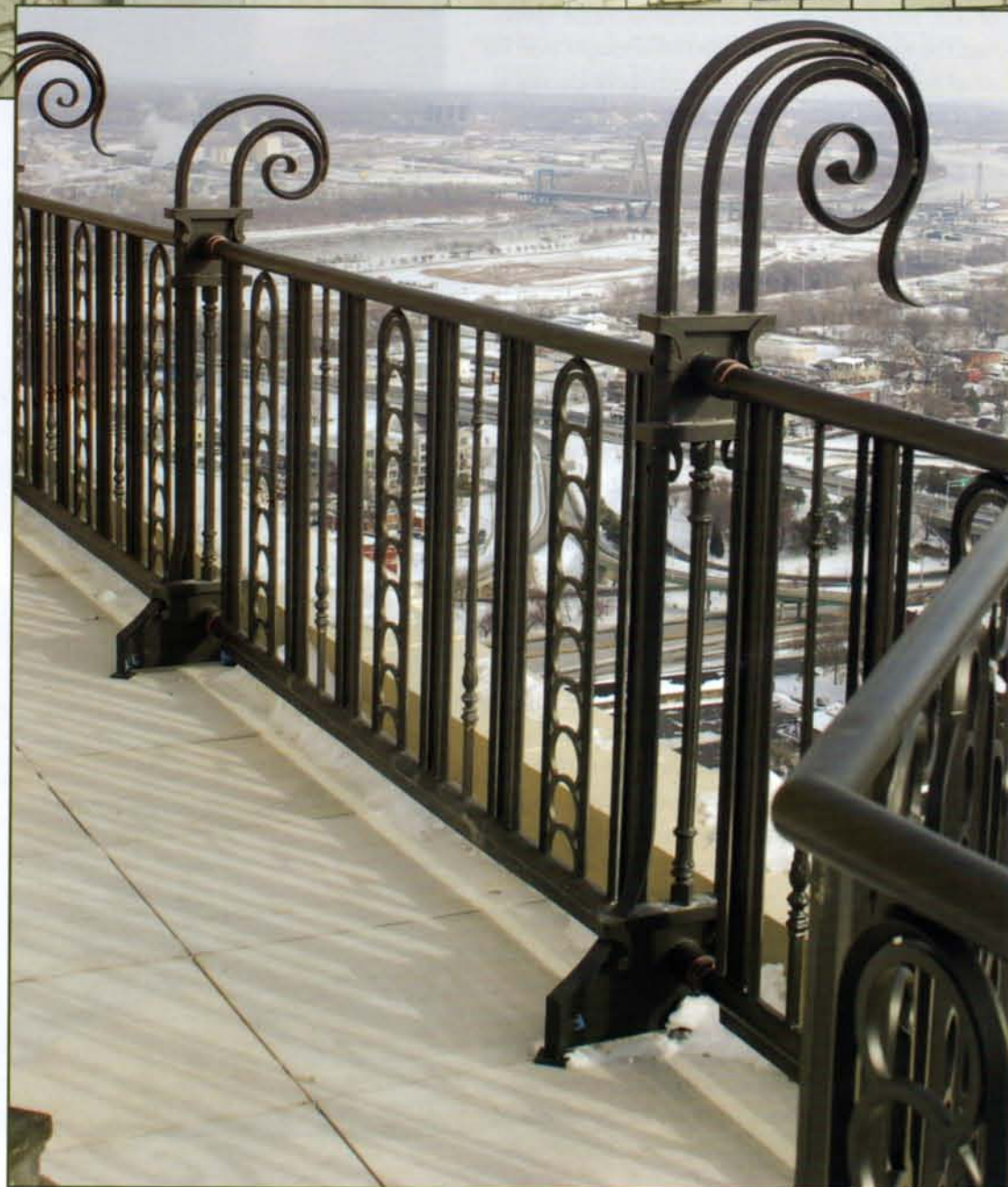


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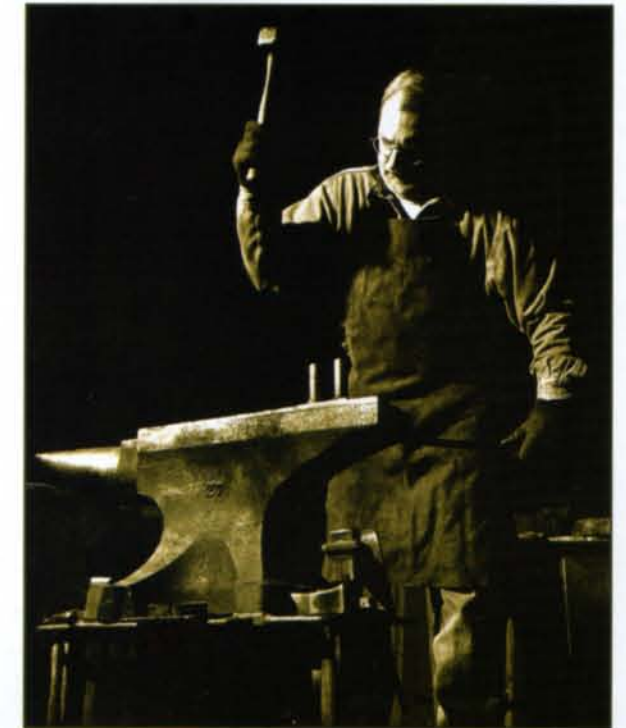
RAILING FOR ART DECO LANDMARK

By Steve Austin
Kansas City, Missouri

This is a recent installation on the 31st floor of an Art Deco landmark here in Kansas City, built in 1931. We had 47 support stanchions 6' tall, and 380 feet of 45"-tall railing forged from 1" x 1" square bar. The decorative stanchions (photo right) purposely extend above the rail to break the line formed by the railing on all four sides of the building and to be visible from the street below. All work is sandblasted and epoxy primed and painted. My design was accepted by both the builder and in-house architectural review board enthusiastically.

The novel detail on the job was method of installation. There was no welding involved during the railing installation. Rather the connection was a three-sleeve process:

- 1.) the rail frame is 1.9" O.D. (outside diameter) stainless tubing
- 2.) the sleeve welded in the stanchions is 2.5" O.D. stainless
- 3.) the intermediate stainless sleeve, 2.25" O.D. was shipped loose and inserted between sleeves 1 and 2.



Once the sleeves were positioned properly, they were glued together with a Hilti adhesive. Installation of the rail panels was completed in one day.

The building had 80 years' worth of roofing maintenance that was excavated every 8 feet for the support stanchions with a varying depth of roofing material (4" to 10"). The concealed part of the support stanchions began with a 10" x 16" x 1/2" plate on the bottom, with two vertical plates that accepted a vertical plate on the visible stanchion bottom. Once the upper plate was

positioned between the lower plates, they were bolted together. When the elevation of the 47 stanchions was verified correct, the sandwiched plates were welded together, and the holes patched and waterproofed. A new modular deck was then installed above the original roof elevation. During the installation of the new deck, the railing panels were built and installed when the deck was finished.

This job has changed the skyline of Kansas City and I get to view it every day when I drive to work. ✨



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