

Non-Destructive Testing, Materials Testing & Conservation

In-situ NDT&E and materials laboratory testing are integrated into our diverse projects and are available as an independent resource to the broader community. We provide, in conformance with applicable listed standards, testing of existing building components and materials, including:

Leak Investigation

Water Testing of exterior surfaces to determine primary and secondary sources of leaks:

- **Spray Bar: Water Penetration Resistance** of masonry using an exterior pressure-regulated spray rack and interior moisture detection (modified ASTM E1105).
- **Flood Test: Waterproofing Failure Detection** of roofing using a containment assembly and interior moisture detection (following ASTM D5957).
- **Leakage Mapping: Water Penetration Resistance** of fenestration using an exterior pressure-regulated hose and interior moisture detection (AAMA 511-08).

Roofs, Waterproofing Membranes and Assemblies

- **Roof Moisture Survey** using **Infrared Thermography** and **Electrical Capacitance** scanning (incorporating elements of ASTM C1153).
- **Roof Membrane Integrity Mapping** and **Leak Detection** using a DC pinhole detector.
- **Deck Contour Mapping** to determine "pitch to drain" using a laser level system.
- **Withdrawal Resistance Verification** of roof fasteners (ANSI/SPRI FX-1).
(Roof cuts and gravimetric testing required for full ASTM C1153 compliance. Contour mapping requires roof cuts to reach deck. Roof repair may be required after withdrawal resistance verification testing.)

Reinforced Concrete Construction

Load-Carrying Capacity Parameters of concrete slab with reinforcing bar:

- **Depth/Thickness** of slab using impact-echo (ASTM C1383).
- **Compressive Strength** of concrete using rebound hammer (ASTM C805).
- **Reinforcing Bar Size/Spacing/Location & Depth of Cover** using covermeter (BS 1881-204).
- **Reinforcing Bar Spacing/Location** using ground penetrating radar (ASTM D6432).
- **Delamination/Void Detection** in concrete using rotary percussion (ASTM D4580) for near-surface voids or impact-echo (ASTM C1383) for deep voids.
- **Chloride Ion Concentration** of concrete from drilling dust or core drilling (ASTM C1218).
- **Carbonation Average/Peak Depth** testing of concrete (as per PCA PL911).

Materials testing of samples:

- **Petrographic Analysis** of hardened concrete (ASTM C856, ASTM C457).
- **Acid-soluble Chlorides** in mortar and concrete (ASTM C1152).
- **Carbonation Average/Peak Depth** testing of concrete (as per PCA PL911).
- **Identification and Quantification** of salts.

Core Clearance prior to drilling/coring/boring in concrete:

- **Rebar/Conduit Detection** using ground penetrating radar (ASTM D6432).

Steel Frame Construction

Materials testing of samples:

- **Original Surface Finish Determination.**
- **Chemical Spot Testing** and **Microscopic Techniques** to diagnose deterioration of metals.
- **Acid-soluble Chlorides** in mortar and concrete (ASTM C1152).
- **Carbonation Average/Peak Depth** testing of concrete (as per PCA PL911).

Masonry, Stone, and/or Terra Cotta Construction

Deficiency Detection in building facades:

- **Infrared Thermography** to detect patterns of differential heating, indicating potential voids or water retention (ASTM C1060).
- **Detection of Corroded Ferrous Anchors/Wall Ties** using the mass magnetic probe technique (non-destructive).
- **Missing Grout Detection** in CMU using ground penetrating radar (ASTM D6432).
- **Delamination/Void Detection** in masonry and/or stone using impact-echo (ASTM C1383).
- **Visual Inspection of Internal Concealed Conditions** using a fiber optic borescope and high intensity light source.

Characterization of building facades:

- **Detection of Concealed Ferrous Anchors/Wall Ties** using a pachometer (following ASTM D7046).
- **Depth/Thickness** of masonry and/or stone using impact-echo (ASTM C1383).
- **Hardness Characterization** of mortar using rebound hammer (RILEM MS-D.7).
- **Surface Water Absorption** using a "RILEM Tube" (RILEM II.4).

Materials testing of samples:

- **Absorption** and/or **Saturation Coefficient** (ASTM C67) of brick.
- **Petrographic Analysis** (ASTM WK 2609) of brick and/or stone.
- **Absorption** and **Bulk Specific Gravity** (ASTM C97) of dimension stone.
- **Water Vapor Transmission Rate** (ASTM E96) of stone.
- **Identification** of stone.
- **Identification and Quantification** of salts.
- **Compositional Analysis** (ASTM C1324) of mortar.
- **Petrographic Analysis** (ASTM C1324, Section 8) of mortar.
- **Gravimetric Analysis** of mortar to characterize the mix and separate aggregate.
- **Mortar Replication** and/or **Sand Selection**.

Stucco and/or Plaster

Deficiency Detection and Characterization of construction:

- **Infrared Thermography** to detect patterns of differential heating, indicating potential voids or water retention (ASTM C1060).
- **Visual Inspection of Internal Concealed Conditions** using a fiber optic borescope and high intensity light source.
- **Patch Detection** using an ultraviolet lamp to create fluorescent patterns.
- **Detection of Concealed Ferrous Anchors/Wall Ties** using a pachometer (following ASTM D7046).

Materials testing of samples:

- **Compositional Analysis** of stucco and/or plaster (ASTM C1324).
- **Petrographic Analysis** of stucco (ASTM C1324, Section 8).
- **Gravimetric Analysis** and wet-chemical techniques of stucco to characterize mixes and aggregates.
- **Stucco Replication** and/or **Sand Selection**.
- **Characterization** of plaster.

Coatings

Construction Administration testing:

- **Pull-Off Strength Measurement** using a portable adhesion tester (ASTM D4541).
- **Coating Thickness Measurement** of coatings on ferrous and non-ferrous metals using a non-destructive gage (ASTM E376).

Cleaning / Coatings Removal in-situ:

- **Removal Tests** for paint, graffiti and coatings.
- **Specification and Monitoring of Cleaning** of sample portions of the building facade in order to identify the most appropriate cleaning method consistent with minimal abrasion and environmental impact.

Coatings and Consolidation Testing (before and after treatment):

- **Water Vapor Transmission Rate** (ASTM E96).
- **Absorption** (ASTM C67) of stone.
- **Microscopic examination** of painted finishes and recording and matching of all finish layers in each sample to the Munsell Color notation system and a commercial color system.