

SMALL PROJECT

PBK, Inc. • Scott Toller

DALLAS HALL, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Dallas, Texas



Dallas Hall is the Icon of Southern Methodist University (SMU). PBK's challenge was to stop the leaks of the original 1910 copper dome and skylight without changing the look – aged patina copper with distinctive streaks – in any way. The only change requested was to have the original-looking vent at the top of the dome.

The concrete deck and drain leaders had to be repaired. Nailers imbedded into the concrete that had rotted had to be replaced using the same methods of installation as were used originally. Also, venting around the skylight was allowing water to splatter down onto the lower, interior, stained glass skylight.

During removal of the copper roof, it was necessary to note the exact location of each piece so that the roof could be reinstalled to its rightful historical location. The design called for the nailers and concrete repair to be done as the copper roof was being removed and the first ply of self-adhering membrane installed to keep the roof watertight. Two layers of membrane were used. A new wire glass skylight replaced the old broken one, and matching, prepatinated copper was used to clad the aluminum skylight. New gutters were installed, and the existing copper tiles reset back to their original locations. A new copper vent was designed to look like the original one that was lost years ago to prevent water and birds from entering the space.

The interior gutter at the vents below the skylight was improved to stop water from blowing over onto the interior skylight.

PBK's only fear was that, theoretically, the dome should grow in circumference, adding the extra waterproofing. Several of the copper sheets on the flat step area that had some damage were replaced with pre-patinated copper sheets, as they would not be seen from the ground. Reinstallation was started at the front of the building, going in both directions until the rear was reached. PBK's assumption that the dome had grown was correct. The pieces from the flat steps were used to cut out pieces to stitch the backside. It matched beautifully,



Waterproofing dome with diamond tiles being reinstalled.

and no one would know the difference between the old and the new.

Officials at SMU had said, "Make it look like you had never been here!" PBK succeeded!



Completed project prior to the scaffolding's coming down.

