

CASE HISTORY

Monumental Task Scaled Down to Size by ITW Ransburg

The Washington Monument in the nation's capital undergoes a renovation every 100 years. ITW Ransburg and Flynn Architectural Finishes teamed-up to scale a portion of this national treasure and monumental restoration project down to size.

Flynn Architectural Finishes, located in Silver Spring, Maryland, was on-site at the structure overseeing another project – gold plating for the four lightning strikes on each corner at the top. Flynn learned that the contractors had encountered a problem – painting the metal grid on the observation deck. In addition to the metal grids, glass covers the limestone to protect the surface from the public. Painting the grid was a challenge.

Originally, the contractor specified that the glass and grids had to be removed. Then, the grids were to be taken off-site, painted, returned, touched-up, and then reinstalled. Finally the glass was to be put back in place. This method was both labor-intensive and expensive.

Flynn Architectural told the contractors that they could paint the grids, on-site, *without* having to remove the grids and glass, using the ITW Ransburg Electrostatic No. 2 spray gun. Flynn convinced the contractors that the process was viable. They provided a quote and won the bid.

“The savings on this job were tremendous,” explained Chris Flynn, president of Flynn Architectural. “When we proposed the idea of electrostatic painting, we quickly got the attention of the project manager. We easily saved them half the projected cost – in both time and money – by using the ITW Ransburg No. 2 gun on this job.”

Although Flynn provided assurance that no wall covering was necessary to avoid overspray on the interior walls because of the No 2 gun's unique properties, the contractors insisted that coverings be used. “With conventional paint systems, we had to put protective coverings up to 30 and 40 feet away from the object,” Flynn noted. “With the ITW Ransburg gun, we now put paper 18-inches away, if at all. From our point of view, there is virtually no overspray.”



ITW Ransburg

Electrostatic Systems

When Flynn began the project, they had only one No. 2 gun. But once they were into the project, they brought a second No. 2 gun and were able to work two crews simultaneously.

"This is not the first electrostatic paint system we have owned," Flynn said. "But the others simply didn't perform as promised. They make a lot of claims, but they don't live up to their promises, and the results were disappointing. The ITW Ransburg gun, on the other hand, did exactly what they said it would – and more. We were very impressed with its performance."

Flynn first heard about the ITW Ransburg electrostatic spray system about two years ago and purchased their original gun from Metro Electrostatic Equipment. Prior to the Washington Monument project, they used the No 2 gun primarily for interior hand railings and exterior fences. "We are basically a field applicator, and that's why this is such a fantastic tool," Flynn said. "It almost eliminates masking, and that saves us a substantial amount of time. We spray skins on buildings where there are concerns about overspray – especially on pedestrians and vehicles. The ITW Ransburg electrostatic system has been very successful."

"Time was of the essence," Flynn explained. "The restoration people were under a major deadline to be finished by the Fourth of July this year, and the metal painting project was putting them behind schedule. The time we saved using the electrostatic gun definitely helped bring that component of the project in on-time."



Towering 555 feet over the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the Washington Monument, designed in the shape of an Egyptian obelisk, is the largest masonry structure in the world with some impressive stats. Begun in 1848 and completed in 1884, it weighs 90,845 tons, receives 800,000 visitors each year, and has 897 steps to the observation area.

The current total restoration began in 1996. Everything must be original with no modifications or shortcuts. The scope of the project is extensive:

- Interior and exterior cracks are sealed
- Exterior joints are pointed.
- 59,000 square feet of interior walls are cleaned.
- Eight aircraft warning lights and eight observation windows are sealed.
- 1,000 square feet of chipped marble is repaired.
- 39,000 linear feet of interior joints are pointed,
- And the metal surfaces are painted.



ITW Electrostatic No. 2 Gun

ITW Ransburg invented on-site painting with the development of the No. 2 Process Handgun – still the most efficient manual spray painting device available today. Coating materials are atomized without compressed air or hydraulic pressure. The No. 2 uses only the electrostatic force generated by the power supply to atomize the paint. Overspray is non-existent.

Because of its high transfer efficiency, the No. 2 Process Handgun enables spray painting in many instances where it would be otherwise impossible, such as the Washington Monument project. It is also effective for on-site refinishing of furniture and the painting of large and small products where overspray cannot be tolerated.

ITW Ransburg

Electrostatic Systems

An Illinois Tool Works Company
P.O. Box 913
Toledo, Ohio 43697-0913
(419) 470-2000
Fax: (419) 470-2270
email: marketing@itwransburg.com

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