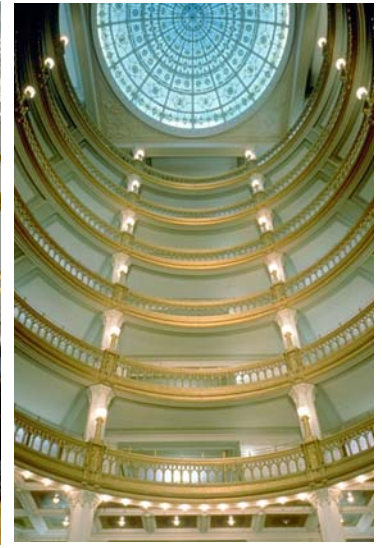




## Union Trust Building Renovation | Pittsburgh, PA



This eleven story Flemish-Gothic style building was designed by Frederick Osterling for Henry Frick (1915-1917) and originally housed the Union Trust Bank. In the 1940's the four story arcade was in filled to maximize rentable office space and the building was "modernized" in the 1960's losing much of its interior historic character.

The building underwent an extensive renovation and restoration effort in the mid 1980's. The renovations were approved by Pennsylvania's SHPO and the National Park Service under the Historic Tax Act. Bill Brennan, while at another firm, lead the design effort. The project received a Historic Preservation Commendation from the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Board. The \$36 million renovation project included the following:

**Exterior:** The striated sandstone exterior facade was cleaned and re-pointed and the glazed terra cotta mansard roof, dormers and lambrequin were repaired with over 2500 custom pieces replaced. The design work included complete documentation of the repair and replacement strategies for the mansard roof. During construction each piece was hand sounded to verify its condition. The missing eagle corners were restored with glass reinforced concrete. The upper double hung wood windows were replaced with historically accurate aluminum windows and the cast iron windows and storefront were repaired. The work included repair to the stained glass tri-glyph windows and backlighting to enhance the transom storefront configuration.

**Interior:** The public spaces were completely restored to their original grandeur. The work included extensive research and selective demolition which exposed the original stenciled and Venetian glass tile ceiling. These were restored and replicated as needed. An original bronze rotunda torchiere was located and successfully recreated in cast aluminum as were the first floor wall sconces. The original wood doors and trim were recreated with backlit transoms and the Carrera marble wainscot was cleaned and repaired as was the Tennessee grey floor stone. The original art glass skylight was restored and backlighting installed to enhance the historic rotunda.

Client:  
**Mellon Bank**

Start:  
**1985**

Completed:  
**1987**

Size:  
**400,000 SF**

Cost:  
**\$ 36 million**