

When Unlimited Designs, Inc was awarded the restoration contract for the [Artesian Springs Project](#), we knew that we were in for a challenge!

In March 2015 Parleys Partners hired a structural engineer to assess the tower and evaluate the structural integrity of both the concrete base (tank) and the steel signage tower atop the tank. Small modifications were required to be made on the tank itself and steel super-structure but the old cast-in-place concrete Art Deco crown that capped off the concrete tank was deemed as "not structurally sound" moving forward. At that point, it was determined that having Unlimited Design take a mold of the old Art Deco crown would not only be more cost-effective than trying to reinforce the old crumbling crown, that was originally made out of precast concrete, but that it would be much lighter and the GFRP replacement would last much longer.

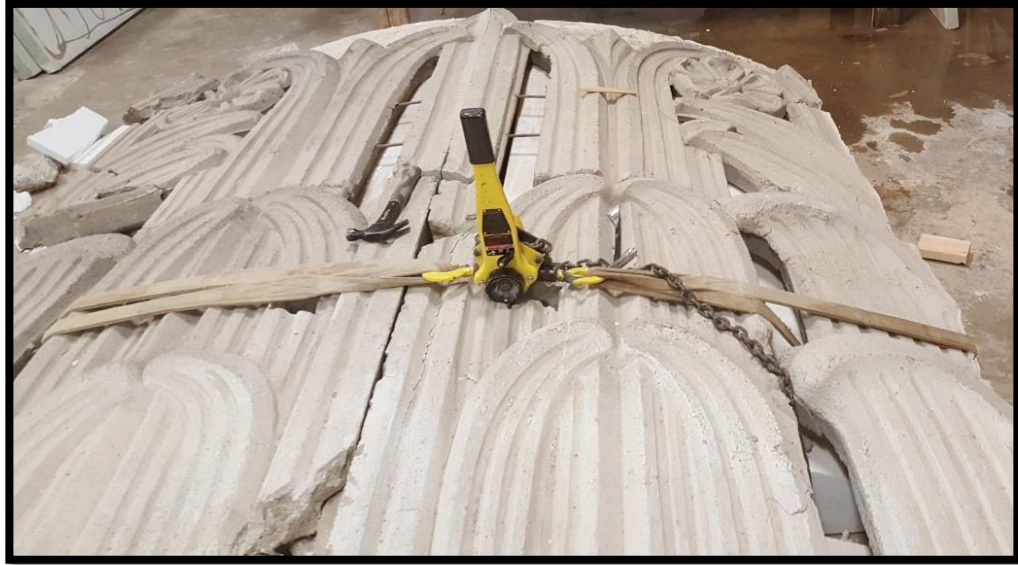
From there, Unlimited Designs, Inc was tasked with demoing the large Art Deco panels, reconstructing them so we could make molds, and cast new panels, all while persevering the panels original design.

The added challenge was, how do you demo panels that are



almost 90 years old, without completely destroying them? The answer, VERY CAREFULLY! The tower itself was originally built in the late 1920's. It was

built to store and distribute water for Murray Laundry that at one point (in the company's hay day) in the 1940's and 1950's the Murray Laundry company processed over 100,000 garments per day.



Once we got the panels back to our shop, we needed to lay them out so we could begin the reconstruction process.

We had to treat the individual, demoed pieces, like they were pieces of a gigantic jigsaw puzzle!





Unlimited Designs skilled craftsmen got right to work, reconstructing these panels, by filling in holes, re-sculpting missing details, and piecing back together parts, that time and weather had taken their toll on.

The original pieces had huge pieces of actual rock within their structure, along with thick pieces of rebar, that held everything together.





From these refurbished pieces, our team was able to create a rubber mold, with a fiberglass mother mold, to ensure that everything held its true shape. We were then able to cast new panels.

When we were pulling the new rubber mold, off of the reconstructed pieces, great care had to be taken to ensure that the original detail of the panels was maintained, without tearing this gigantic mold.



It took three men just to pull the mold from the reconstructed parts!





The results were absolutely stunning!

The tower itself was filled by 8 artesian springs (hence the name of the project) that we located around the site and that have since been capped. When full the tower holds almost 250,000 gallons of water.



The signage on the tower has been modified to read "Artesian Springs" from "Artesian Water Murray Laundry" to identify the vibrant new apartment development. The Artesian Springs Apartments itself is a 3-phase apartment development that is still under construction and that when complete will be comprised of 378 highly-energy efficient luxury affordable apartment units.

