Eyes on the Future

ASM headquarters is preparing for the next hundred years, looking to the past at ASM roots in the American Society for Steel Treating, and to the future as the provider of materials information to the world and beyond. Toward this end, the office building under the dome is being updated to handle the fastest Internet speeds and the latest electronic technology. In addition, more efficient heating and cooling systems will be installed, better insulation will be added, and corrosion will be repaired.

This amounts to a major, multi-million-dollar renovation that will require the staff to vacate the building for 12 to 15 months. Fortunately, ASM was able to locate a building just a few miles away that will allow the staff to seamlessly respond to the needs of our members and customers.

The semi-circular headquarters building has 50,000 square feet of office space. It features stainless steel floating staircases supported by stainless rods running from the ground floor to the second floor, brass handrails, copper doors, large panels of clear glass windows and walls, and stainless steel sunscreens on the outside of those large glass panels. Last year the state of Ohio recognized the ASM Headquarters as a Historic Landmark because of its modernist design, quite advanced for 1959. As a result, the state has allocated $1.4 million in tax credits to offset some of the cost.

However, the geodesic dome, which is made of tubular aluminum 7075, is in perfect shape and needs no renovation. Consisting of 65,000 parts, the dome rises to a height of 103 feet and is 250 feet in diameter. It is the largest open-work geodesic dome in the world.

Because of the Historic Landmark designation, the building must be returned as closely as possible to its original design. Although computers and high-tech lab equipment are allowed, the open spaces of the original design must be returned. This means that the many offices that have been constructed over the years to fill these spaces must be dismantled. The designation also means that the original large glass panel windows must remain: The seals around the windows may be replaced, but not the glass itself.

Thanks to the wonders of the Internet and video cameras, you will be able to watch as the project progresses. A mini-website on the ASM home page will be updated weekly with photos, commentary, and videos.

We invite you to visit every week to keep track of progress, as ASM International prepares to grow and prosper in the 21st century.

Margaret W. Hunt