

Washington Monument Aluminum Access Scaffold

Universal Builders Supply, Inc. has been using an aluminum access system for years. This year UBS was able to add the Washington Monument to the list of successful projects using this system.

Using aluminum scaffold members has many advantages over the steel systems. Advantages include a superior weight to strength ratio (for more workable structurally adequate members) Aluminum is a more corrosive resistant material, not only for material longevity, but to eliminate potential rust staining on the access surface. Also, with the additional strength of a workable unit, the scaffold bay is able to be opened up from 8'-0" to 14'-9".

Project special innovations included the use of a variable girt and brace system to accommodate the 1-degree lean of the scaffold for profiling and a unique system of variable and adjustable trusses to accommodate tie restrictions. Due to the fact that mechanical anchors can not be used, a "V" shaped corner bracket was used to engage the monument. The system also accommodates a personnel/material hoist within the structure at the same 1-degree lean. Also, a specially fabricated 65' free standing top consists of tapered 2D trusses and converging space frame trusses, which were fabricated with tubular main members to allow concentric loading of a 13 member, 5 direction, nodal connection. The scaffold converged to a common point 10' above the monument. The scaffold was also designed to accept the decorative mesh of which special false panels were fabricated for the intended aesthetic effect.

Common components for this project will be placed back in UBS inventory for use on future projects for both access and shoring solutions.

