



AHERN PAINTING

Cherry Hill, NJ • www.ahernpaintingnj.com • 856-665-1131



▲ Careful prep work was key to restoring this beautiful early-twentieth century home.

Italian Renaissance Residence

Ahern Painting of Cherry Hill, New Jersey was hired to bring back to its former glory a single-family Italian Renaissance home constructed in 1900. The sprawling estate is home to a 6,515-square-foot private residence on five waterfront acres, situated on the riverbanks of the Delaware River in Beverly, New Jersey, along with similar estate homes. The home has a unique four-story bell tower, which accounts for the nickname “2 Tower View Lane.”

The age of the home and the resultant weather-related wear and tear on its materials presented numerous challenges for Ahern. The house had peeling paint on most of the highly visible areas of the home; the previous multiple coats of exterior paint had been applied over poorly prepped surfaces. Much of the substrate was original and had to be removed. The Northeast weather conditions included freezing temperatures in April, making chemical stripping, paint removal and power-washing difficult. In addition, the height of the building and position of surrounding vegetation made it tricky to access the high areas. In addition, all of the work had to be performed in coordination with other tradespeople working on upgrades to the home.

Ahern removed 100 percent of the previous coating with two rounds of chemical stripping and careful hand scraping. The



▲ The home’s bell tower makes it a local area landmark.

painting crew used moisture meters to ensure all wood and masonry were dry enough for sanding, priming and finish coating. “We sanded all bare wood so we could smooth out any raised grain from the chemical stripping process, but also so the slow-dry oil-based primers could penetrate the substrates in the most effective way possible,” said John Ahern, owner of Ahern Painting.

Some of the work was done using a 65-foot articulating boom lift and an 85-foot boom lift to access the tower. “We pulled the shutters into our shop where we could chemically strip and sand during off hours to meet tight deadlines,” said Ahern. “Some shutters were 7 feet high, while others were louvered, and we did a four-color application on them to get a period look, which required brush painting by craftsmen. We also took the window sashes from the tower

to our shop for interior and exterior refinishing and exterior reglazing.”

Ahern used Benjamin Moore products for primers and paint coats, based on their durability and dependability. They finished all wood surfaces with Benjamin Moore MoorGlo Soft Gloss. Stucco surfaces received SuperSpec Elastomeric to ensure a thicker, more flexible film build that would protect against the nearby river’s winds and New Jersey climate changes. Ahern used Super Spec Acrylic DTM to coat metal surfaces, based on the product’s adhesion and color-retention properties.

“Ahern Painting was honored to restore this one-of-a-kind structure to its original splendor,” said Ahern, “And we were happy to be able to demonstrate the range of our craftsmanship, attention to detail and commitment to professionalism.”

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