

IN YOUR SPACE



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Intermuseum Conservation Association workers Andrea Chevalier, left, and Jennifer Lis work on restoring bas relief mosaic tiles.

Office itself a work of restoration

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Special to The Plain Dealer

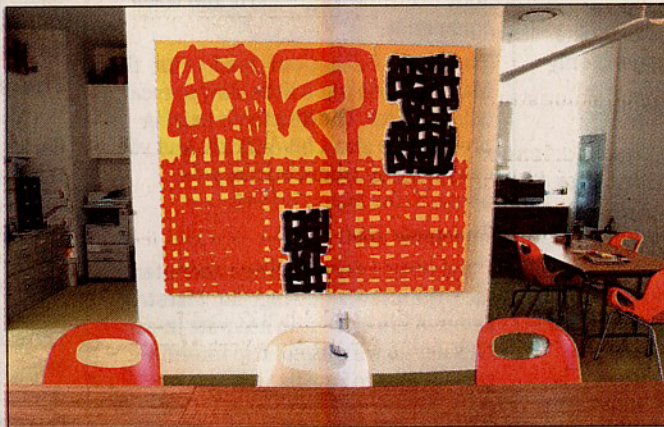
To say that the Intermuseum Conservation Association is uniquely suited for the restoration task it faces is an understatement.

Founded in 1952 by the directors of six major museums, the organization was the first nonprofit regional art conservation laboratory in the United States. Today the staff provides highly skilled analysis and preservation services for a broad range of materials, including paintings, sculpture, documents and textiles.

In 2003, the association moved its operations into a three-level, 18,000-square-foot building in Cleveland's Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood. The bulk of the space is devoted to the materials analysis and conservation labs, a secure, climate-controlled fine-art storage facility and a wood shop for custom mounting and framing.

The association will now focus its expertise right at home. Currently undergoing restoration is the building's historic terra cotta facade and lower level, which in the 1920s housed a Vitrolite glass showroom. It is, perhaps, the country's last remaining showroom for the pigmented structural glass.

"It was a profound bit of faith that we became the stewards of this building," says Albert Albano, the association's executive



Paintings are everywhere at the Intermuseum Conservation Association, including this colorful backdrop to the conference table — a work by Jonathan Lasker.

director. "It's obvious that people had started ripping the Vitrolite off the walls. I'd like to restore every little molecule of accuracy."

The association plans to turn the storefront into its reception area and conference room.

Trattner is a free-lance writer in

NAME: Intermuseum Conservation Association

ADDRESS: 2915 Detroit Ave., Cleveland

VITALS: Nonprofit art conservation laboratory

Cleveland Heights.

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