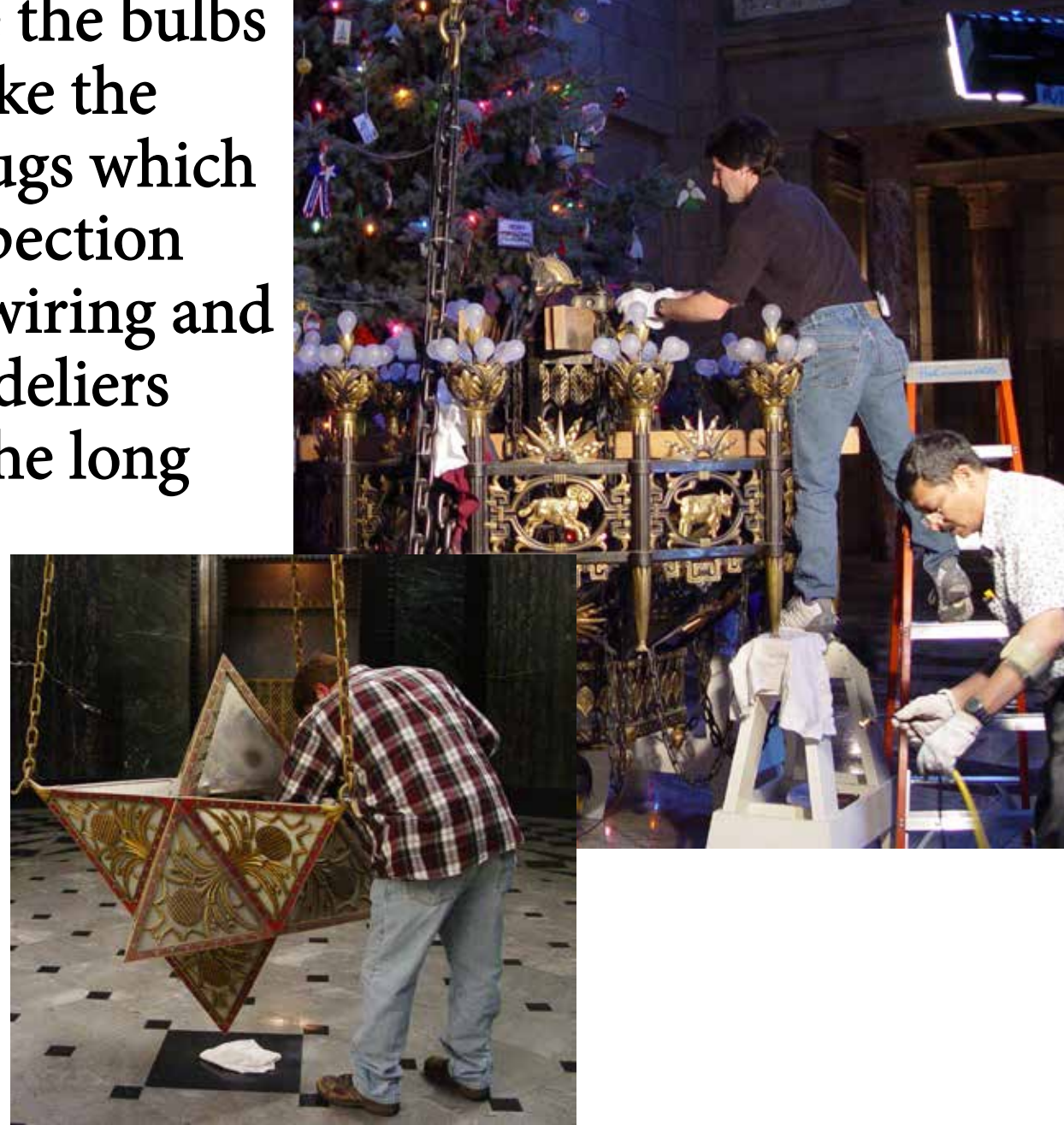


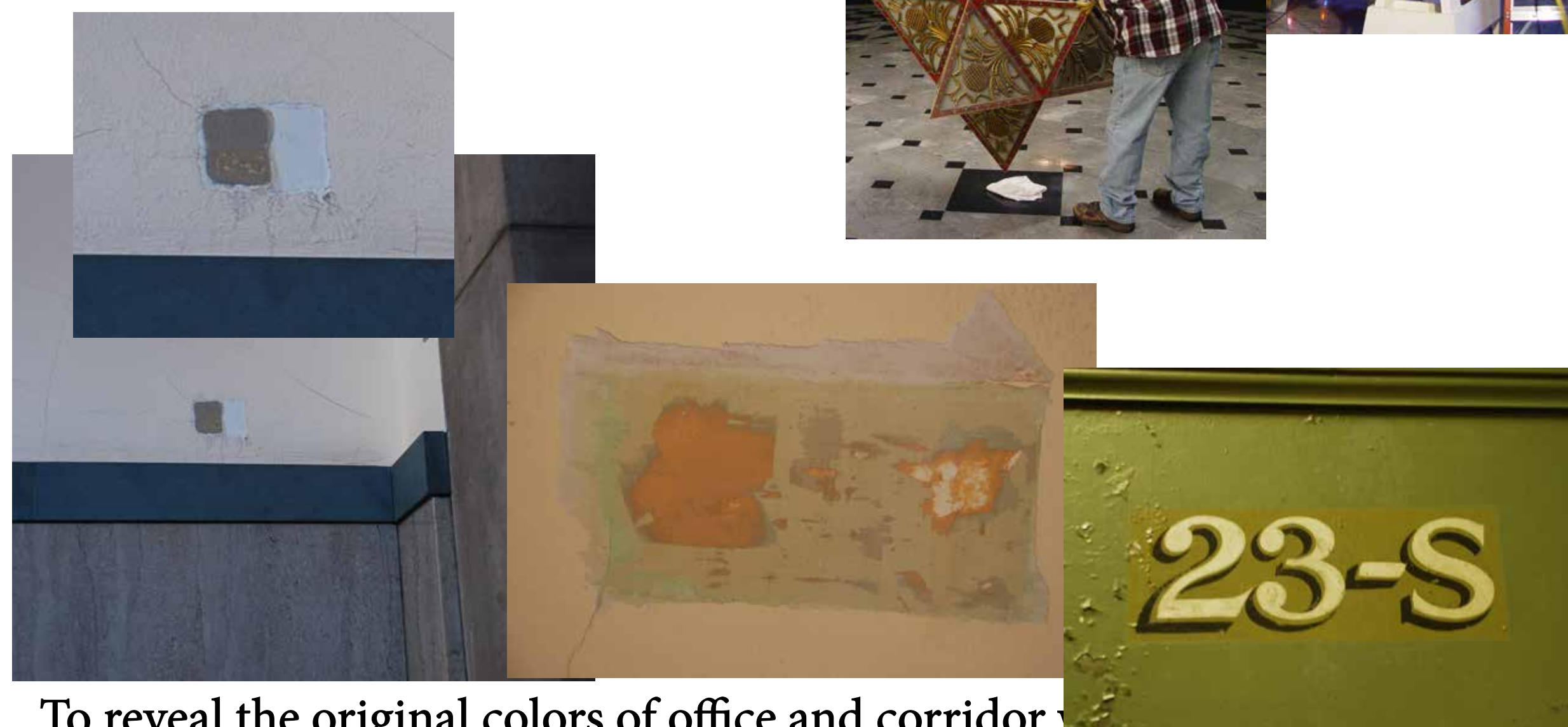
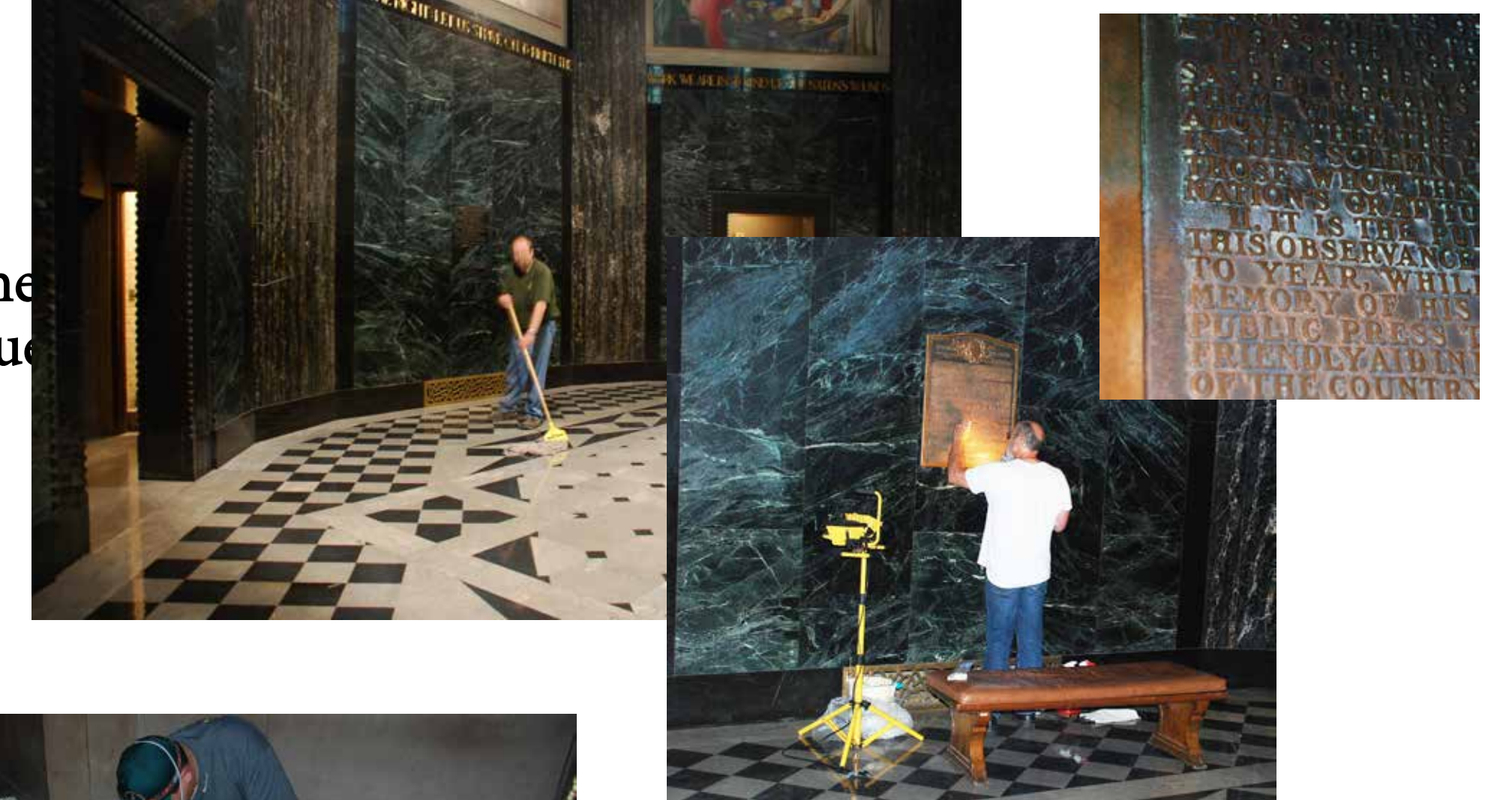
KEEPING IT CLEAN -- THE NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL

One of the first and most important activities in any preservation program is cleaning. Whether it is an oil painting or a monumental stone structure, to determine condition and plan for restoration it is important to begin with the most original and intact surface. Once restored, the best way preserve an object is to keep it clean. Office of the Capitol Commission staff and conservation contractors have worked, over the past 30 years, to clean the Nebraska State Capitol. Whether it is a once every half-century cleaning of the building's exterior or the nightly cleaning of the building's interior, cleaning is the unsung hero of historic preservation.

When OCC's maintenance staff change the bulbs in the Capitol's chandeliers they also take the time to inspect and remove dust and bugs which accumulate inside the fixtures. The inspection allows staff to see the condition of the wiring and mechanical/electrical parts of the chandeliers and make necessary repairs to ensure the long life of the beautiful chandeliers.



The Memorial Hall on 14th floor has undergone many changes in the past 20 years. Before Stephen Robert's murals were added in 1996 the entire chamber was scaffolded and cleaned. The installation of the Medal of Honor plaques included cleaning the existing plaques. Nightly, OCC custodial staff clean the floor.



To reveal the original colors of office and corridor walls, contractor will strip off many layers of paint. OCC matches paint to the original colors when painting as part of a renovation or restoration project. Above right, removal of non-original paint in the basement revealed original door numbers as well as original paint color.

For additional information about the work of the Office of the Capitol Commission go to <https://capitol.nebraska.gov/news/newsletter/>



To prevent damage to Hildreth Meiere's marble mosaic floors, capitol staff began applying a wax finish in the 1980's. After 30 years the layers of wax have diminished the beauty of the mosaic floor. Capitol staff removed the heavy wax on the Napoleon Gray stone surrounding the original floor radiators and replaced it with a thinner protective layer. Additional cleaning involved removing the bronze floor grills and vacuuming 80 years of dust and grime which had fallen through and coated the radiators. Preservation staff also cleaned the bronze grills. Notice how much brighter the stone around the bronze grills appears in the central floor image.



OCC calls in special conservation help to clean and restore the Capitol's many murals, preserving their beauty for future generations.



Twice a year contractors wash windows

Graffiti is a challenge in any public environment. It is distressing to find those who do not respect the hard work and investment of previous generations in a monumental structure such as the Capitol. Removing graffiti immediately deters others and prevents the graffiti from soaking into the building's surface and causing permanent damage.



The exterior masonry project revealed attics where original construction rubble had not been cleaned up. Removing the rubble creates a safer environment, and makes leaks and other problems easier to detect and repair.



Cleaning the Indiana limestone walls with a latex poultice reveals the beauty of the stone and shows how soiled the stone has become in the 80 years since construction was completed.



The Capitol's glazed gold tile dome 350 feet above the ground was cleaned during the 1998-2012 exterior renovation