

PROJECT DATA

GM GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS ICON INSTALLATION DETROIT, MI

Client

General Motors Global Headquarters
200 Renaissance Center
Detroit, MI 48243
313.667.5012

Architect

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
200 Renaissance Center
Suite 1300
Detroit, MI 48243
Don Stark
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Cost

\$5,266,000

Date Completed

February, 2002



The most note worthy and definitely the most visible of the Olson projects at the Renaissance Center was the GM Icon project. This project entailed the installation of three 25-foot tall, 2-ton GM logos on the top of the central tower, along with a four-foot, fiber optic light band circling the tower at the 70th floor. In addition, Olson also replaced the top 3 floors of glass with new tempered glass.

Many issues had to be overcome to complete this difficult engineering and construction project. Issues such as the safety of the workers working on the top of the 73-story structure; mobilizing materials using helicopters lifts; debris handling; and working off cantilevered scaffoldings systems.

The Icons are connected to the tower at the 72nd and 73rd floor, 120 degrees apart. They face north, northeast and southeast. Due to working in a high-rise structure, with limited freight elevator capacity, the Icons, steel, new glazing and other large materials were hoisted using numerous helicopter lifts.

The actual installation of the structure steel supports and the Icons themselves were performed by working off swing stages mounted to the top of the tower. These swing stages supported 36 foot long scaffolding overhanging 72 floors above the ground. Workers performed all work on the Icons, light band and glazing in this on this 36-foot scaffold area before the two-day process of moving the system to the next stage.

The light band is made up of numerous fiber optic lights encased in a 4-foot wide opaque lens cover.