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Chiseled in Stone

Partnership

There are not many cathedrals under construction these days but the master masons and apprentices who are building one on Morningside Heights have discovered a considerable demand for their craft and expertise. The demand, in fact, is great enough that the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and a New York City developer, David M. Teitelbaum, have created a partnership called Cathedral Stoneworks, which employs more than 60 people and specializes in construction, restoration and fabrication. Profits from the enterprise are split equally, with the cathedral's half being applied to its own building project, which has been going for almost a century. "What this is really about is an effort by a nonprofit to help itself," Mr. Teitelbaum said. "What we're trying to provide is a service to the architectural world where we can resurrect the lost art of stone cutting."

Last month, Cathedral Stoneworks won a \$1 million contract from the Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh to embellish the facade of the College of Fine Arts. It is also bidding on a potentially enormous job, the restoration of the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines. Other projects undertaken by the masons and apprentices from Morningside Heights include the restoration of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, at 55th Street, and the base of the Trinity and United States Realty Buildings, at 111 and 115 Broadway, just north of Trinity Church.