

THE BREAKERS, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND



The Breakers, the summer home of Cornelius Vanderbilt II, was completed in 1895. An architectural icon of the Gilded Age, this house contains more than 135,000 sq ft, set on 14 acres of prime landscape at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. It is the “crown jewel” in the collection of historic Great House museums presently owned by The Preservation Society of Newport County. The exterior is composed mainly of limestone, constructed as load-bearing walls for its full four-story height, and is heavily carved and ornamented in the Classical fashion. The main roof is covered with multi-colored glazed Spanish tiles.

A detailed in-depth survey of all elements was performed prior to the repairs to document existing conditions. The exterior limestone showed areas of movement, cracking, minor deterioration and soiling. The limestone facades and chimneys were cleaned and repaired. The tile roof was replaced with new custom terra cotta tiles to match as closely as possible the original appearance. New built-in copper gutters were connected to a rehabilitated storm drainage system.