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SAA SCAFFOLD & ACCESS
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

SUSPENDED SCAFFOLDS FOR MULTIPLE TRADES

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ON THE
COVER





SUSPENDED SCAFFOLDS FOR MULTIPLE TRADES

SUPERIOR SCAFFOLD USED INNOVATIVE RIGGING TO PROVIDE SUSPENDED SCAFFOLDING THAT MET THE NEEDS OF MULTIPLE CONTRACTORS.

BY ERIK HIGHLAND



Figure 1

Race Street was part of William Penn's original gridded street system. It was christened Sassafra Street in the 1680s. Horse racing on the street became popular in the early 1800s. The name was officially changed to Race Street in the 1850s. Today the street is part of a renaissance taking over Philadelphia. Once hustling and bustling factories and warehouses that sat empty and neglected, now find new life in renovated shops, cafes, apartments, condos, and offices.

Bridge on Race Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is a new high-rise apartment building designed for modern living in Old City. The look is elegantly contemporary in a neighborhood with some of the oldest streets and structures in the country. Rising above the adjacent Ben Franklin Bridge, it boasts incredible city, river, and skyline views. In order for these residents to have the best views in the city, they needed a ton of glass.

AT ONE TIME SUPERIOR HAD 10 SUSPENDED SCAFFOLDS ON THE JOB, WITH MULTI- PLAYERS, AT DIFFERENT ELEVATIONS.

Superior Scaffold Services used modular suspended scaffold work platforms to help two different crews with two different disciplines on this project. GMI Contractors, Inc. used the suspended scaffolds to install all of the glass and windows on this building. EDA Contractors then used the swing stages to bridge the dramatic angles of the building and install all of the wall panels. At one time Superior had 10 suspended scaffolds on the job, with multi-players, at different elevations.

Innovative Rigging

One swing stage featured innovative dual rigging (Figure 1). The top inset shows two wire ropes coming off of the beams on both sides. They call this “4-wire” rigging. The scaffold motor uses one of the wire ropes to climb up and down, and the second wire rope goes through an emergency braking device on the motor that prevents the scaffold platform from falling if the primary





wire were to break. The lower inset shows how the two wire ropes come through the motor and braking device.

The second wire rope acts as a safety line for the platform itself. The main advantage of this dual rigging system is that it allows the worker on the platform to hook a lanyard directly to a dog line (or cable) running horizontally across the mid rail attaching directly to the platform itself. This eliminates the need for independent lifelines that can hang below the stage and provides the worker with much greater access to the entire platform.

About the Author

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