

URBAN D.C. Inc.

Building Restoration ~ Contractors & Engineers

Project

**J.P. Morgan Chase
Chase Manhattan Plaza
New York, NY**

**Groupe de Quatre Arbres
Jean Dubuffet**

Scope of Work

**Structural reinforcement
of steel armature &
disintegrating shell**

Professionals

**John Nakrosis Jr.
Building Design
Architect & Engineer**

Wilson Conservation



*Photos clockwise from top left:
Reinstallation of restored sculpture. Urban D.C. Reinforcing
steel armature at shop yard. Restorative painting specialist.
Urban D.C. crew member reinforces disintegrating shell.*

Groupe de Quatre Arbres (Group of Four Trees, 1970) sat in Chase Manhattan Plaza for three decades. This work of art by late French artist Jean Dubuffet, after many years of patched cracks was falling apart. Specialty contractor Urban D.C. was hired to disassemble, reinforce and rebuild the fifty-foot abstract sculpture's fiberglass shell and steel armature.

Urban D.C. cut the sculpture into 26 pieces to transport it to their shop yard. Once there, rust was removed from the corroding steel skeleton, which was then reinforced with added steel. The original shell was an amalgam of epoxy, cement, pebbles and aluminum honeycomb. Urban D.C. reinforced the shell with flexible fiberglass rods and stainless steel bars. Vents were added in order for the sculpture to breathe and allow water to escape. An Urban D.C. restoration specialist painted the Dubuffet sculpture as the final phase of restoration before reinstallation at Chase Manhattan Plaza.