

URBAN D.C. Inc.

Building Restoration ~ Contractors & Engineers

Project

**The American Museum
of Natural History**

**Central Park West
@ West 77th Street**

Scope of Work

Fabrication of steel cylinder

**Resetting and
reinstallation of Mosaic**

Professionals

**EverGreene Painting
Studios**



Photo above: Detail of mosaic after the completion of full resetting and reinstallation. Photo bottom left: Urban D.C.'s in-house crew flips the precious mosaic to begin structural work. Photo bottom right: Urban D.C. setting the structural steel into mosaic's underside.



The Aztec Sun Stone mosaic, created by Victor Foscolo in 1935 was the centerpiece of the Hall of the Sun in the original Hayden Planetarium. The 25-ton stone sculpture depicted by the mosaic represents the fifth sun, or age, which began with the accession of King Itzcoatl (r. 1427-40) and is on view at the Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City. The 12 foot diameter mosaic, a representation of the original monolithic pre-Columbian sculpture from 1479, was removed by specialty contractor Urban D.C.'s in-house crew and relocated to an off-site facility.

Urban D.C. engineers designed, fabricated and installed a steel cylinder in which to encase the mosaic. This required turning the mosaic upside down to complete the installation of the cylinder. The original setting bed was over 24 inches thick, including the structural I-beams. The new installation required an 8 inch thick setting bed.

On the main level of the Weston Pavilion, a passageway leads to the newly reset and reinstalled colorful Aztec Sun Stone mosaic, inlaid in the terrazzo floor and now once again on view.