

MANN REPORT

October 2017

Howard Rowland of EW Howell Construction Group



EW Howell Construction Group President Howard Rowland with his Executive Team

*Back Row L to R: VP Bob Zirkel, VP Harry Hansen, EVP Michael Johnes, VP Jack Hagen, President Howard Rowland, COO Paul O'Rourke
Front Row L to R: CFO Daniel Williams, VP Kevin McKenna, VP Dominic Paparo, VP Robert Timperio*

As president of one of the oldest and largest construction firms in the New York metropolitan area for the past 20 years, Howard Rowland has experienced the many ebbs and flows of the industry. Founded on Long Island in 1891 as a family-owned business, EW Howell Construction Group initially set out as a builder of large estate homes throughout the region for families like the Guggenheims, Pratts, and Whitneys. As its portfolio grew, so too did the opportunities to build for these families' business interests, which paved the way for EW Howell's specialization in commercial building. Its client-centered "Build Simply" approach of doing business has evolved into the firm's present-day position as a construction leader in the New York metropolitan area.

Rowland got his start in the construction industry with TF Jackson Electric, a contractor with offices on Long Island and in New York City. It was in this role that he had the chance to work with the team at EW Howell, and Rowland became familiar with the staff and its

projects, leading to an opportunity for him to join EW Howell. In 1983, Rowland became a project manager with the firm, rose through the ranks and has been its president since 1997. He also serves as the vice chairman of the New York State Chapter of Associated General Contractors as well as secretary for the New York City Building Contractors Association.

Today, says Rowland, the general contracting company focuses on four main practice areas, led by teams from its New York City and Plainview, Long Island offices: Healthcare, Retail, Education, and Arts & Culture.

Rowland notes that the firm's education division has experienced an uptick in both expansions and new construction at the secondary and higher education levels. EW Howell is working on several projects for public schools in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens (P.S. 49, P.S. 303, P.S. 338, P.S. 339, P.S. 343, P.S. 340) for the New York City School

Construction Authority, as well as work for private institutions such as The Brearley School, Hewitt, Dalton, and Spence schools, and establishments of higher education like the Performing Arts Center at Brooklyn College, Stony Brook University, and Hofstra University.

“Right now, educational institutions at all levels are making upgrades and changes to facilities, as technology and record enrollment rates change the way they teach and learn,” said Jack Hagen, vice president of EW Howell’s education division. “Private and public schools, as well as institutions of higher education, are committed to providing its students with the facilities and tools that will help advance their education, and EW Howell is proud to build for these institutions in and around the city.”

One of the major projects underway with EW Howell’s arts & culture division, led by vice presidents Bob Zirkel and Dominic Paparo, is the Edible Academy at The New York Botanical Garden, a three-acre complex that will include a classroom pavilion, teaching greenhouse and 350-seat terraced lawn amphitheater. Completion is expected in 2018. The division is also working on the renovation and expansion of the Park Avenue Synagogue’s Life Long Learning Center, and interior renovations and upgrades to Libya House on Manhattan’s Upper East Side.

Although most of its healthcare projects are on Long Island, Rowland notes that the sector is booming throughout the greater New York area. Under the direction of healthcare division Vice President Robert Timperio, EW Howell is working on Long Island’s largest healthcare project, the Stony Brook Medical and Research Translation (MART). The eight-story, 240,000-square-foot MART building and the 225,000-square-foot bed tower will enable scientists and physicians to advance cancer research and imaging diagnostics.

Timperio says, “In the fast-paced world of healthcare, construction lies at the very center. Through our focused healthcare team, EW Howell Construction Group has our finger on the pulse of technological advancements to keep up with this highly specialized, highly regulated industry. From hospitals to nursing facilities to bio labs, the facilities we work with have to meet the varied needs of administrators, facility managers, caregivers and, ultimately, patients. A construction firm that understands the complicated nature of healthcare landscape is integral to the success of a project.”

EW Howell is also working with Benchmark Senior Living on projects in Smithtown and Woodbury, and with Sunrise Assisted Living

for new facilities in Summit, NJ and Huntington, NY. “Demographics are shifting, with the first wave of Baby Boomers entering an age where they are either making assisted-living decisions for their parents, or planning for their own long-term care throughout Long Island, the boroughs of NYC and the northern suburbs,” says Rowland.

One of the sectors most affected in New York City and across the region is retail. EW Howell retail division head Kevin McKenna explains that some of the firm’s newest retail projects are Target stores opening as “flex format” stores; formats which are also coming to New York City this year. EW Howell has built 20 full-format Target stores on Long Island, as well as nearly all of the Lowe’s Home Improvement locations. Another of EW Howell’s longtime retail clients is Bergdorf Goodman, the luxury department store. EW Howell’s retail team has completed several phased renovation projects for the luxury retailer that required coordination so as not to disrupt the store’s ongoing operations.

Following the celebration of its 125th anniversary in 2016, EW Howell continues to expand from the firm’s Long Island and New York City roots to become one of the region’s largest and most diverse construction firms—one that continues to succeed by bringing its ‘Build Simply’ approach to even the most complex development projects.

