HURON — Restoring a Waterfront Façade

Inside the manufacturer-approved rescue of Brooklyn's newest glass landmark

Two 14-story towers stretch over Brooklyn's Greenpoint waterfront, facing the Manhattan skyline. Behind the daylight shimmer, a different story unfolds–one that could change how the industry views large-scale restoration.

Turnover inspections revealed consistent glass damage: faint linear marks, surface scoring, and point impacts from a rushed cleanup. The defects were light but widespread, visible in the wrong light and impossible to ignore.

With custom Italian IGUs already installed and nine-month replacement lead times, the decision came fast: replace thousands of panes–or restore them in place.

That's where GlassRenu and Thompson Exterior stepped in.

A Restoration Standard, Not a Reaction

> *"Restoration usually shows up when something's gone wrong, but at Huron, it's being treated like a controlled, spec-driven process from day one."*

The team began with documentation, using GlassRenu's VIS-2026 as the standard for all on-site evaluations. The VIS defines how to inspect glass–standardizing geometry, lighting, and damage categories (CAT-0 to CAT-5)–so "faint," "light," and "moderate" mean the same thing across every level.

Together with Thompson Exterior's access planning and field control, that framework turned a potential emergency into a structured, manufacturer-approved restoration program.

The Partners Behind the Process

If **GlassRenu** built the standard, **Thompson Exterior** put it into action.

Their team–experts in high-rise access and façade logistics–manages swing stages, safety, and sequencing across the towers. Each elevation acts as a controlled testbed for precision restoration guided by the VIS standard.

A Living Case Study

Though early in its restoration phase, The Huron already serves as a live demonstration of large-scale façade recovery under formalized criteria. Mockup bays on the first elevation function as both training areas and documentation platforms.

Pickler, the Italian glass producer, confirmed that restored units **maintain optical performance and coating integrity–preserving the warranty and validating the process.**

"We're not just cleaning glass," says Thompson Exterior. "We're maintaining the manufacturer's product warranty through controlled restoration."

The VIS Framework in Action

On the surface, VIS-2026 reads like a technical document. In the field, it behaves like an equalizer. Everyone–from the technician on the stage to the insurer reviewing claims–sees the same defect under the same conditions.

*The **CAT System** classifies each pane by observable severity:*

- **CAT-0:** Undamaged
- **CAT-1 to CAT-3:** Faint to moderate, field-repairable
- **CAT-4:** Severe, partial-repair or high-risk
- **CAT-5:** Non-repairable or out of scope

Acceptance follows defined geometry, with disqualifying features–swirl, edge rings, or coating flaws–prohibited. By standardizing judgment, the VIS makes acceptance measurable.

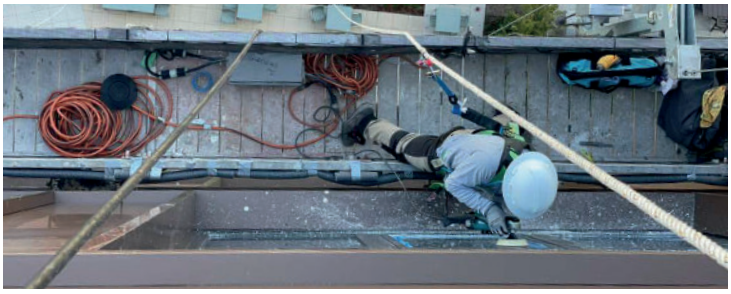
GlassRenu calls it **"a bridge between lab criteria and real-world façade work."** At Huron, that bridge is holding up under pressure.

Building Confidence Through Documentation

Though still in draft form, the Damage Specification Sheets (DSS) already support the Huron program, cataloging real glass conditions–mineral stains, scraper scoring, glass-on-glass abrasion–and linking each to a VIS category.

Where VIS defines how to inspect, the DSS defines what you're seeing, giving restoration full traceability across thousands of units.

Each pane carries an elevation ID, classification code, and before/after photo–a digital chain of custody for every square foot of work.

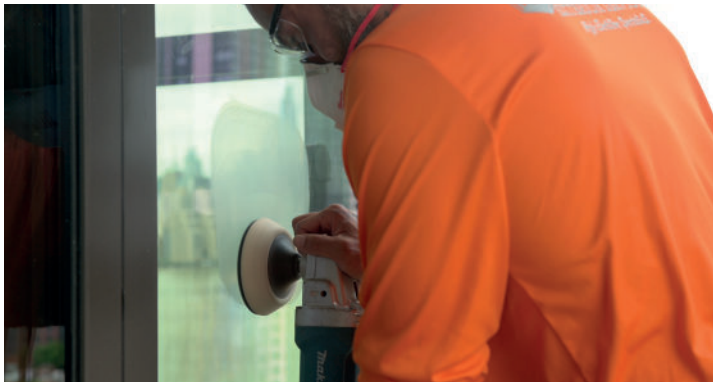


> *On a project this size, data keeps the story straight, It proves the product that went up is the one being delivered.*

Restoring Views, Protecting Value

For the ownership team, the impact goes beyond quality control. In-place restoration avoids the nine-month **reorder cycle, prevents interior disruption, and maintains the tower's premium aesthetic at about one-tenth the cost of replacement.**

Equally important, it preserves the brand promise–clear, uninterrupted skyline views through premium glass.



"This is what sustainability looks like in practice, preserve what you've already made, and do it to a standard the manufacturer recognizes."

- Glass Renu

Sustainability and Urban Efficiency

Even early in the program, the environmental impact is clear. Each restored pane avoids fabrication, shipping, and staging–reducing waste, carbon, and rigging hours in line with New York's sustainability mandates.

For Thompson Exterior, it also means cleaner logistics: f**ewer mobilizations, lane closures, and material loads along the waterfront.**

Why the Industry Should Pay Attention

Huron isn't just a project; it's a live laboratory for the future of glass restoration standards. With the VIS framework already in publication and the DSS nearing release, GlassRenu and Thompson are demonstrating a path that glaziers, fabricators, and façade managers can follow–one rooted in data, collaboration, and manufacturer engagement.

The results so far have drawn interest from multiple corners of the trade. Façade consultants, insurers, and manufacturers are all watching closely.

For editors and technical writers, the site offers a rare chance to see a first-of-its-kind restoration program in motion–complete with standards, manufacturer oversight, and transparent documentation.

> *This is where the next era of restoration starts, not in a lab, but on the skyline.*

Callout: Standards in Action

VIS-2026: Visual Inspection Standards for Architectural Glass

Defines viewing geometry, lighting, and acceptance conditions for repaired glass (12″, 36″, 72″; normal and oblique angles; diffuse daylight). Published and active at Huron.

DSS: Damage Specification Sheets

Companion reference for identifying and classifying real-world damage types by category (CAT-0 through CAT-5). Currently in draft form and used on-site for manufacturer review.

For a closer look at the restoration process, visit youtube.com/@thompson_touch

Owner/Investor: Quadrum | **Exterior Services & Access:** Thompson Exterior | **Technical Standards & Oversight:** GlassRenu (VIS-2026 + DSS Framework) | **Manufacturer:** Pickler (Italy) | **Project Location:** Brooklyn, New York – Active 2025 | **Photography:** LNC Media Group