ATLAS PIERS OF ATLANTA, INC.

Bring In the Experts

Travel Team Tackles Job Others Won't Touch

Olathe, Kansas

COMMERCIAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Atlas Piers of Atlanta is a preferred vendor for Home Depot. Over the past decade, Atlas has successfully completed numerous foundation repair projects for Home Depot facilities and corporate executives' personal properties all over the country. For this particular project, Home Depot encountered settlement issues with the masonry columns along the perimeter of their garden center.

Initially, other contractors bidding the job reported that underpinning the columns could not be done safely, recommending they be torn down and replaced. Unsatisfied with this response, Jon Wittlin, P.E., the head corporate engineer at Greenburg Farrow Engineering, reach out to atlas piers for an alternative assessment.

In response, Atlas Piers engaged one Mr. Brandon Walter from ECP to conduct an initial site visit to evaluate the feasibility of conventional underpinning. During his inspection, Mr. Walter identified that 9 of the masonry columns had rotated up to 5 inches out of plumb, posing a significant safety concern. Despite this, he confidently stated that Atlas Piers, alongside ECP's products, could successfully execute the work.

Working collaboratively, ECP and Atlas Piers developed a comprehensive repair concept and proposal. The proposed solution involved underpinning each column with 4 ECP 2-7/8" x 0.276" thick end-bearing helical piles. After thorough review, the concept and proposal were approved by Home Depot. The formal design was completed by Mr. James Landrum, P.E., of Olsson Engineering. Atlas Piers then mobilized a dedicated four-man travel crew and ECP shipped the necessary products directly to the site. The project was completed smoothly within seven business days. As a result, the columns were successfully lifted and rotated back to within 1/4" of plumb.

The biggest challenge the Atlas Team faced was convincing the owner that they could successfully complete the project after several of their competitors stated it could not be done. The soil profile was also problematic as it had a very soft layer directly atop very dense rock. The geometry and size of the footings in relation to the bidirectional movement of the columns presented a challenge with the lifting procedure.

To address the array of challenges, Atlas met with the owner and corporate engineers on site and had thorough discussions explaining in detail the installation methodology and process to ensure safety and success. Considering the relationship and track record between Atlas and Home Depot as well as Atlas' confidence in ECP's products and their crew's experience, in an unprecedented move, Atlas guaranteed they would restore the columns back to their original positions or Atlas would not invoice them for the work.

A specific 'end bearing' helical pile and flight configuration were optimally designed to accommodate the loading requirements in the given soil profile. Vertical pile installation was deemed optimal in achieving the recovery of the bidirectional column settlement. The vertical installation also maintained the required tip separation. The 2-7/8" outer diameter pile was sleeved with 3-1/2" outer diameter pipe sections at the top so the model 350 resistance pier bracket could be utilized.

Atlas Piers of Atlanta installers: Chad Costello, Gavin Sarver, Carlos Ramirez, Sachel Vance, & Ben "Diesel" Christy.