

LOCATION

New Haven, CT

OWNER

Yale University

DELIVERY METHOD

General Contractor

ARCHITECT

Christopher Williams Architects

BRANFORD COLLEGE GATES RESTORATION

Milestone Construction Services was entrusted to restore the historic entry gates at Yale University's Branford College — an iconic work originally crafted in 1933 by master blacksmith Samuel Yellin. The project demanded an extraordinary balance of artistry, engineering, and logistics to return the gates to their original grandeur while integrating modern operational systems.

The work included carefully removing the nearly century-old gates, transporting them to Hammersmith Studios in Canton, MA for disassembly, analysis, repair, and refinishing, then reinstalling them with upgraded hydraulic and electrical components. Site work encompassed bluestone removal, waterproofing, structural steel modifications, and ADA-compliant access features.

With the project beginning in June and required to be fully operational before the fall semester, Milestone managed an accelerated schedule while navigating the unpredictability of aged materials and hidden conditions. Close collaboration with the architect, owner, and craftspeople — including multiple off-site visits to review restoration progress — ensured precision every step of the way.

The result is both art and infrastructure: the restored gates are as stunning as they are reliable, blending historic authenticity with long-term durability. The University has since identified the project as a model for future gate restorations across campus.

