

# COBO RENOVATION MILESTONE REACHED



Photos by John T. Grellick / The Detroit News

Members of Iron Workers Local 25, who work for Midwest Steel Inc., raised the final steel beam used to frame the atrium.

**I**ron workers at Cobo Center on Thursday raised the final steel beam used to frame the new atrium, which is set to open in time for the 2013 North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

The beam, which weighs more than 12 tons, was lifted 90 feet — along with an evergreen tree, a traditional symbol of growth and good luck — to its final resting place.

"It's very exciting," said Phil Frame, a spokesman for Cobo Center. "It's one of the key features in the renovations of Cobo Center and a very key milestone for the city of Detroit."

As the atrium is finished, a new grand ballroom and meeting rooms will be constructed in the former arena, Frame said. He said construction is on budget and on time.

"Cobo is going to be a real economic driver for the city, and this is a very important moment in that timeline."

The show's media days are set to begin Jan. 14. The public show will run Jan. 19-27.

*Michael Martinez, The Detroit News*



Justin Johnson of Monroe walks near an evergreen tree, a traditional symbol of growth and good luck.



Jason Grandmason connects the final beam to the top of the steel structure of the atrium during a "topping out" ceremony for the arena atrium at Cobo Center.