



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

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This aerial of the CVC project site taken Friday, August 28, 2007, shows the East Capitol Grounds slowly returning to the pedestrian-friendly environment envisioned by Frederick Law Olmsted in his 1874 landscape plan. When Olmsted designed Central Park in New York City approximately 20 years before coming to Washington, D.C., he said he was trying to provide a respite from the colossal structures around that park. At the Capitol, however, his intent for the landscape was quite the opposite – to focus attention on a colossal structure. The central promenade lined by two rows of trees on each side (foreground left) and the curving pedestrian approaches to the Capitol have been re-established in their original locations thereby recreating the park-like setting Olmsted said would not compete with the formality of the Capitol but, instead, would frame views of the building and highlight its majestic dome.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 9/3/07 through 9/7/07

- Clean-up crews continued to remove protective floor covering from many areas in preparation for the follow-on inspection process. Initial clean-up activities have been completed in the CVC entrance zones, the Exhibition Hall, the CVC Restaurant, the Great Hall, the upper-level east and west lobbies, and several corridors and stairwells.
- In the CVC Restaurant, masons are close to completing the installation of the stone countertops and “punch-list” inspections in this area began early last week.
- Installation of custom bronze doors is complete in the CVC entrance zones and adjacent vestibule areas.
- In the Exhibition Hall, a contractor has completed the installation of the photo mural backdrop images in the eight House and Senate history cases. Documents, images and artifacts will be installed in these cases after the environmental systems for the Exhibition Hall have been fully tested. Environmental readings in the Hall are now being taken.
- Millwork installation is essentially complete in the Congressional Auditorium and masons have set some of the polished granite cap stones on a low millwork wall on the lower level. All of the seats have been installed at the floor and balcony levels. Most of the millwork and wood staining for the Auditorium stage is complete.
- Masons have begun preparatory activities for the stonework in the south side water feature in the Great Hall.
- A ceiling contractor has completed the replacement of millwork ceiling panels in both the North and South Orientation Theaters and scaffolding has been removed. The audio systems for both theaters have been tested.

- Wall stone installation is nearly complete in the East Front of the Capitol. Ceiling framing and follow-on drywall and plastering activities will occur over the next several weeks.
- Millwork is nearly complete in meeting rooms within the Senate Expansion Space and audio-visual technicians continue to installing cabling and other audio/visual components in the cabinetry.
- A crew has completed the framework to the underside of the three-level spiral staircase in both the House and Senate Stairwell Atria. Installation of drywall on the framework has been completed as well and plaster work is ongoing.
- Carpet installation is complete in the House Radio and TV Gallery. Carpet installation is nearing completion in the meeting rooms adjacent to the House Hearing Room and flanking corridors. Workers have completed the upper layer of ceiling work and will now begin installing the framework for lower, and more visible, tier of ceiling panels.
- Masons have completed laying pavers in a decorative pattern adjacent to the seatwall adjacent to the Senate egg and are nearing completion along the House seatwall. The original historical bronze lamp-posts have been installed in the House and Senate seatwall. Masons are setting large granite curb stones along the north side pedestrian entrance ramp.
- Workers have removed most of the temporary mechanical system on the east-side roof of the Capitol. That work should be complete by the end of this week.

Next Week – 9/10/07 – 9/14/07

CVC and East Front Plaza Work

- Environmental conditions within the CVC Exhibition Hall will continue to be monitored in preparation of a 60-day testing period for the Hall's environmental control systems.
- Minor work remains on the millwork and stone finishes in the Congressional Auditorium. Seat installation and carpeting are essentially complete.
- Masons will continue setting the stone countertops on some of the server components in the CVC Restaurant.
- Floor stone installation may begin at the Gallery level within the East Front.
- Mechanical crews will continue testing and balancing the CVC's air handling system. The commissioning of the CVC's air handling units will continue.
- Installation of wood and bronze doors will continue in several areas throughout the CVC. The vast majority of door installation work is now complete throughout the site.
- Ceiling framework will continue in the House Hearing Room. A lighting contractor will continue installing the components for a large ceiling light fixture above the center of the Hearing Room. Carpet installation will near completion in the adjacent meeting rooms and corridors. Crews will continue installing cabling and cabinetry components in the Senate Recording Studio and lower level meeting rooms. Bronze railing installation will continue in the Senate stairwell atrium.
- Plaster work is expected to be completed on the drywall along the spiral staircase in the House stairwell atria. A subcontractor will continue to install the bronze railing components in the Senate atrium.
- Clean-up activities will continue throughout the site to prepare areas for punch-list inspections.



Like many interior spaces inside the CVC, this upper level lobby near the Congressional Auditorium has taken on a much more finished appearance now that protective covering has been removed from the floor stone and other finishes. Professional clean-up crews will begin working throughout the CVC later in September to prepare areas for the follow-on inspection process.

For additional information about the CVC project, contact the project communications officer, Tom Fontana, at tfontana@ao.gov or visit the project web site at www.ao.gov. Be sure to click on the "Capitol Visitor Center" link on the homepage.