



# United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

October 16, 2006



The wood panel ceiling of the North Orientation Theater is now in full view after crews dismantled the scaffolding that occupied the theater during the last several months. Inset: An artist's rendering shows a portion of the 34' X 19' projection screen at the front of the theater. When completed, both the South and North Orientation Theaters will showcase a 12-minute film highlighting the history of the Capitol and the Congress.

## **This Week – Ongoing Work – 10/16/06 through 10/20/06**

### **CVC and East Front Plaza:**

- Mason teams have nearly completed setting floor stone in the CVC entrance lobby, the adjacent vestibule area, and the upper level east lobby overlooking the Great Hall.
- Scaffolding has been removed inside the North Orientation Theater (see photo above) clearing the way for installation of wood and fabric wall panels. Final floor stone installation also has begun in the North Theater. Crews are expected to begin dismantling the scaffold in the South Orientation Theater later this week.
- Installation of finish ceiling panels continues in many areas throughout the site. The south corridor adjacent to the Great Hall on the lower level is nearly 80 percent complete (see top photo next page). Ceiling panels have also been installed in corridors leading to the Congressional Auditorium. Final ceiling panels are expected to be installed at the east side of the Great Hall by the end of the week, allowing the scaffold to then be dismantled clearing the way for stone work in that area.
- Floor stone installation is complete in the lobby just outside the South Orientation Theater and nearly complete along the south corridors on both the upper and lower levels. Masons continue setting floor stone in the upper level north corridor.
- Installation of finish ceiling panels is nearly 85 percent complete along the lower level south corridor adjacent to the Great Hall and leading east toward the Congressional Auditorium. The ceiling contractor will continue working six 10-hour days each week to maintain an increased pace of installation of ceiling panels throughout the CVC.

- Crews have completed installing finish flat ceiling panels in the Food Service area. Curved acoustic fabric ceiling panels for the Food Service area have been delivered and will be installed next week.
- In the East Front, crews continue installing the metal stud framework that will support the stone at the Rotunda and Gallery levels along the east and west walls. Workers are expected to complete installation of steel for a redesigned archway above the main central staircase. Stone installation on the beam is expected to begin by late-October.
- In the Exhibition Hall (EH), workers continue to assemble the steel framework that will support the marble “Wall of Aspirations,” which will house historic documents. Workers are installing insulated tubular air duct below the floor grid and the duct now reaches some of the document window locations within the wall framework. Also in the EH, ceiling contractors are framing the tray ceilings above the virtual House and Senate Theaters and a millwork contractor has completed the installation of the blue soffit trim panels around the central ceiling zone.
- Ceiling “close-in” inspections are occurring in the Congressional Auditorium and the scaffolding in the Auditorium is expected to be dismantled by mid-November allowing for the installation of finish wall panels.
- Ceiling millwork installation is continuing in two Congressional meeting rooms near the Congressional Auditorium.
- Masons have completed the stonework for the historic seatwalls around the House and Senate grass panels. A decorative paving pattern is complete around the north and south historic fountains.
- Utility crews continue to balance the CVC’s 23 air handling units. The first chilled water pre-test has been completed.



**Ceiling panel installation is nearly complete in a south side corridor adjacent to the Great Hall.**

## **Next Week – 10/23/06 – 10/27/06**

### **CVC and East Front Plaza Work**

- Crews are expected to begin dismantling the scaffold at the east side of the Great Hall clearing the way for masons to set floor and step stones and complete other stone work for the fountains at the base of each staircase.
- Floor stone installation will continue in corridors and lobby areas on both the upper and lower levels primarily on the north side of both the Great Hall and CVC entrance zone.
- Installation of finish fabric ceiling panels will begin in the Food Service Area and continue in upper and lower level corridors around the Great Hall.
- In the Exhibition Hall, crews will continue installing framework for ceilings in the virtual House and Senate Theaters, and assemble the steel support system for the Exhibition Hall’s “Wall of Aspirations.”
- Plaza restoration work will continue near the House Steps and along the eastern edge of the Senate Triangle.



**A CVC worker installs cherry wood panels to ceiling soffits in a meeting room adjacent to the Congressional Auditorium. Crews are now installing millwork and fabric ceiling and wall panels in several areas throughout the CVC.**

*For additional information about the CVC project, contact the project communications officer, Tom Fontana, at [fontana@oc.gov](mailto:fontana@oc.gov) or visit the project web site at [www.oc.gov](http://www.oc.gov). Be sure to click on the “Capitol Visitor Center” link on the homepage.*

Clockwise from right: (1) An image taken October 16, 2006, shows the view of the East Capitol Grounds from the Jefferson Building dome. Visible are 32 new trees along the East Capitol Street Extension and the historic lanterns and fountains in the center of the Plaza. The new skylights above the CVC's Great Hall are visible in the left center of the photo. (2) Masons apply grout and set stone in the CVC's south entrance lobby. Tennessee marble ornaments the wall at left. (3) Workers install conduit in the ceiling grid above the east side of the Great Hall. The scaffold will be dismantled next week clearing the way for the final floor and stair stone installation in this area. (4) Workers assemble formwork for concrete foundations around the south skylight. Water will slowly revolve around black granite slabs that will be supported by the new concrete below.



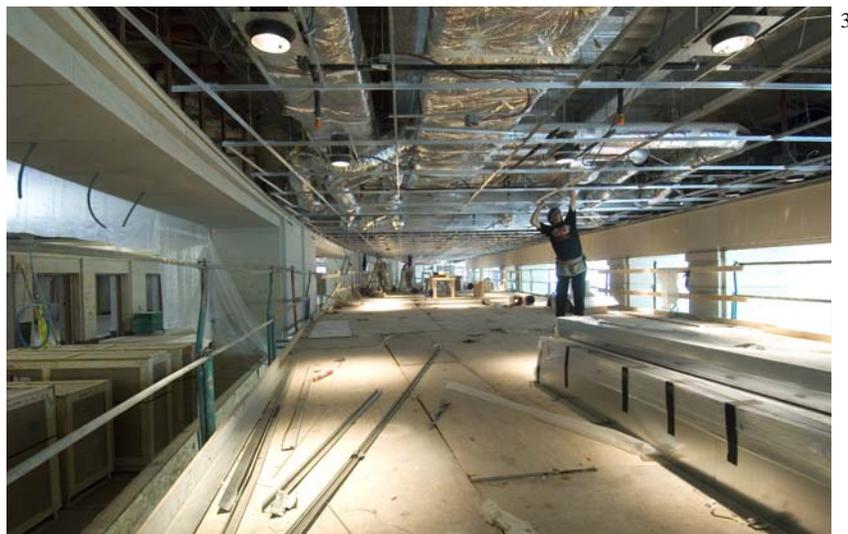
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Clockwise from right: (1) Workers place concrete inside a bronze basin that is part of the Olmsted-designed historic fountain originally installed in the late 1870s. The fountain will be revived as a fully operational misting fountain. (2) Inside a pedestrian tunnel that connects the CVC to the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress, workers apply plaster and set stone pilasters along the south wall of the tunnel. The 600-foot-long tunnel curves along with, but below, the House side oval grass panel, runs below First Street, and then connects to the northwest corner of the Jefferson Building. (3) Downlighting on split-face sandstone blocks adds architectural interest to the exterior face of a meeting room wall near the Congressional Auditorium. (4) Masons sets granite blocks to the exterior wall flanking a staircase that connects the East Front Plaza to the CVC entrance.



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