



# United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

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The mosaic field of sandstone on the walls of the Capitol Rotunda served as the architectural precedent for the 200,000 square feet of sandstone that lines the walls of the CVC, as evidenced in this circulation lobby near the Congressional Auditorium. It should be noted that when the Rotunda walls were built in 1822, they were later painted white to give them the appearance of marble and to reflect what little light was entering through the oculus at the top of the original 96-foot-high wood and copper dome that was completed in 1826. The walls were stripped of the paint in the early 1900s revealing the rich diversity of color, textures, and “irregularities” seen today.

## **This Week – Ongoing Work – 11/12/07 through 11/16/07**

- The final acceptance testing process has begun on the CVC’s fire and life-safety systems.
- Clean-up crews continue to prepare interior spaces for the follow-on inspections, which are ongoing.
- In the Great Hall, small spotlights have been installed below the skylights to illuminate the floor space below during evening hours. All major finishing work is complete in the Great Hall including the installation of the bronze pin-mounted letters that identify the Exhibition Hall, the CVC Restaurant and both Orientation Theaters.
- All of the bench components for the Exhibition Hall have been delivered to that location and the benches for the Virtual House and Senate Theaters have been installed. The marble wall panels that will flank the model of the Capitol Dome have been installed. All glass floor panels around the Wall of Aspirations have been installed.
- All of the carpet work is complete in both the North and South Orientation Theaters and the theaters have been cleaned.
- At the CVC entrance zones, masons are essentially complete with the installation of granite pavers at the south entrance plaza area and are now working on detail edge work.
- In the Senate stairwell atrium, masons have completed the major stonework at lowest level of the atrium and have also installed the pre-cast terrazzo stair treads. In the House atrium, metal workers continue to install the bronze hand and cap rails along the spiral staircase in preparation for the follow-on terrazzo work.
- In the East Front, ceiling framework continues at the Rotunda and Gallery levels.
- Plumbers have begun testing the water jets in the historic Olmsted fountains in the center of the East Front Plaza.
- Bronze workers continue to install bronze cladding around custom doors and window openings.

- All of the major plaster and stone work is complete in the tunnel to the Library of Congress and in the portion of the transition zone that lies within the Jefferson Building. Masons continue working on the remaining stone work in the transition/screening zone just west of the Jefferson Building and ceiling framework activities continue.
- Technicians continue inspections of audio-visual systems and fire and life-safety components throughout the CVC.

## **Next Week – 11/19/07 – 11/23/07**

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

- Punch-list work will continue throughout interior spaces as millwork, wall stone, floor stone, grout lines, painted surfaces, ceiling panels, plaster work, carpeting, doors, and other finish materials are inspected.
- The AOC Fire Marshal will continue the final testing process for the fire and life-safety systems.
- Workers will continue installing ceiling framework at the Gallery Level in the East Front Extension of the Capitol and finish detail stone work.
- Mechanical crews will continue testing and balancing
- Masons will continue work on paver edge details at the north and south entrances.
- Installation of bronze cladding will continue around door thresholds and window frames.
- Workers are expected to complete the installation of the bronze hand rails in the House Stairwell Atrium while masons complete the lower level stone work in the Senate Stairwell Atrium.
- Ceiling work will continue in the LOC Tunnel to clear the way for installation of the terrazzo floor later this month.



**A skylight above the stairwell atrium in the Senate Expansion Space provides a dramatic view of the Capitol Dome. The staircase connects all three levels of the Senate Expansion Space.**



**A worker removes some protective material from floor stone near the entrance to the CVC's South Orientation Theater in an effort to prepare the space for the subsequent inspections. Professional cleaning crews are at work in both theaters and in most interior spaces dusting millwork, buffing floor stone, vacuuming carpets, and polishing bronze and stainless steel elements to clear the way for the final testing of the CVC's fire and life-safety systems. That process will begin on November 16<sup>th</sup> marking a significant milestone for the project as all major construction work is now complete.**