



# United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

December 3, 2007



A plumber adjusts one of the many water jets that lie within one of the two oval fountains in the middle of the East Capitol Grounds. The fountains were among the first hardscape elements to be installed as part of Frederick Law Olmsted historic landscape plan of 1874. Olmsted wrote that the misting fountains “should create a rainbow” that could frame the Capitol’s Dome and gas lamps near the jets would help maintain the rainbow in the evening hours. The rainbow has been lost for nearly 30 years when the fountains were relegated to slower moving pools of water so visitors waiting on lines, which often stretched between the fountains, did not get wet on a windy day. When the CVC opens, the misting fountains will be fully operational once again since visitors will no longer stand on long lines on the East Front Plaza waiting to enter the Capitol.

## **This Week – Ongoing Work – 12/3/07 through 12/7/07**

- The final acceptance testing process on the CVC’s fire and life-safety systems continues on schedule.
- Painters, carpenters, plumbers, masons, electricians, carpet installers, and other professionals continue to address punch-list items throughout the expansion spaces.
- Way-finding signs are now being installed throughout the CVC public spaces
- In the Exhibition Hall, crews are now installing the bronze railings for the Virtual House and Senate Theaters. Later this week, workers will also install the glass wall panels at the north end of the Hall. All major case components on both sides of the Wall of Aspirations have been installed.
- Audio-visual technicians continue to install projection system equipment and test the very robust sound system in each theater (see top photo next page).
- At the CVC entrance zones, masons are essentially complete with the installation of granite pavers except for detail work. Landscape crews have completed nearly one acre of sod placement along the north entrance ramp.
- 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 South Orientation Theater, part of a very robust speaker system is visible on the wall that will be hidden behind a 34-foot-wide projection screen (center left). Additional speakers behind louvered panels along the walls and other speakers in the ceiling are part of a state-of-the-art surround sound system that was developed and installed by the contractor responsible for the sound systems in Camden Yards and Verizon Center. Inset: An audio-visual technician installs the wiring for the projection system in the North Orientation Theater.

- In the East Front, ceiling work continues at the Rotunda and Gallery levels.
- Metal workers will near completion of installation of 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 where ceiling framework activities continue.
- Technicians continue inspections of fire and life-safety components throughout the CVC.

## **Next Week – 12/10/07 – 12/14/07**

### **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 ceiling work at the Rotunda and Gallery Levels in the East Front Extension of the Capitol.
- Installation of bronze cladding will continue around door thresholds, window frames and some interior wall spaces. Way-finding signage installation will continue.
- 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.



**Bronze pin-mounted letters identify interior spaces and way-finding paths 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.*