



# United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

April 16, 2007



Workers install a thick glass panel to a steel support structure on the south side of the East Front Carriageway. The glass walls on both sides of the Carriageway will allow natural light to enter the CVC transition zone while allowing views of the House and Senate wings.

## **This Week – Ongoing Work – 4/16/07 through 4/20/07**

- In the Exhibition Hall plaster workers have nearly completed work on the decorative wall and ceiling panels, and faux marble columns in the virtual House and Senate Theater (see top photo next page).
- Masons continue setting wall stone in several areas within the East Front of the Capitol.
- In the East Front transition zone the escalator contractor has completed installing and connecting mechanical elements and the escalators are ready for operation. On both sides of the East Front Carriageway, workers have installed five of six glass panels that will serve to enclose the Carriageway while allowing natural light to enter the interior space (see photo above).
- Ceiling plaster work and painting are nearly complete at the Crypt level within the East Front transition zone. Floor stone installation is expected to begin in this area in early May.
- Masons are nearing completion of floor stone work in the upper level north corridor adjacent to the Great Hall. This is the last major area of floor stone work to be completed within the CVC.
- Millwork is ongoing for the upper level panels in the Congressional Auditorium and eight of 14 panels are now installed. The millwork for a curving ceiling wall in front of the Auditorium speakers is also complete and workers are now dismantling the related scaffolding. Millwork is ongoing in the lower and upper level seating areas.
- Masons have completed the exterior stone work on the walls flanking the north and south monumental stairs and along the north and south entrance approaches. Masons have also completed the wall stone along the face of the CVC entrance zones and crews are now placing the aggregate concrete sidewalk for the north entrance ramp.

- The stonework for the last two (of six) remaining historic Olmsted lanterns is nearly complete. The installation of the stone and bronze elements for the Olmsted fountains was completed last fall.
- Installation of the CVC's exterior 12-foot-high bronze doors is expected to begin by mid-week.
- Installation of bronze railings and floor stone work on the House and Senate spiral staircase landings will continue through the month. Bronze doors are being installed in the adjacent thresholds on both the upper and lower levels.
- Mechanical contractors are expected to resume testing and balancing the air handling systems for the Food Service Area this week. Meanwhile, the crews continue installing air handling components throughout the facility.
- A paving contractor completed paving around the House Triangle during the recess. Placement of aggregate sidewalks and curb stones is complete around the triangle and sod placement will occur within the next two weeks.
- In House Expansion Space, masons are setting stone to the walls that will flank the central dais. Millwork is nearly complete in adjacent meeting rooms.
- In Senate Expansion Space, finishing activities are nearly complete in the Senate Recording Studio with the exception of carpet installation. Millwork and light fixture installation is ongoing in lower level meeting rooms.

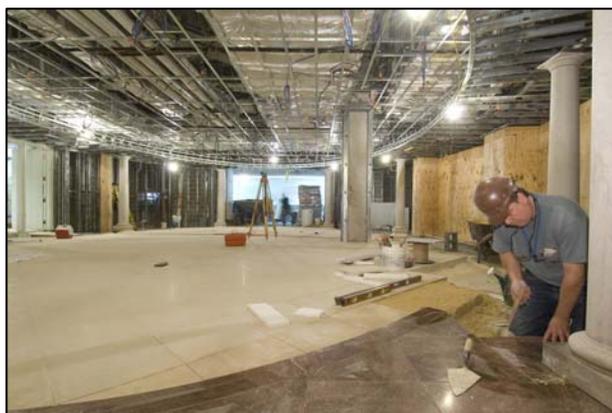
## **Next Week – 4/23/07 – 4/27/07**

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

- Floor stone installation will near completion in an upper level corridor on the north side of the Great Hall.
- Wall stone installation will continue in several areas within the East Front of the Capitol.
- Workers may begin installing the specially-cut glass floor panels in the Exhibition Hall. Ceiling panel installation will continue on the north side of the Hall and plaster work will near completion in the virtual Senate Theater.
- In the Congressional Auditorium millwork installation will continue on wall panels and in the upper and lower level seating areas.
- Mechanical crews are expected to continue testing and balancing the air handling units for the Food Service Area.
- Workers will continue placing the aggregate concrete for the north pedestrian ramp which slopes from First Street NE to the north-side CVC entrance zone. Concrete placements for the Plaza-level curving path around the Senate egg may also continue.
- Installation of bronze doors will continue at the CVC north entrance.
- Installation of wood and bronze door frames will continue in many areas throughout the CVC.
- Sod placement may be completed in the House Triangle and the surrounding fencing will be removed.



**In the CVC Exhibition Hall, a worker installs a pre-fabricated plaster panel to a wall inside the Virtual Senate Theater. The decorative ceiling and wall panels are intended to mimic the architectural elements in the Senate Chamber.**



**Far left: A worker installs a glass fixture to a newly installed lamp post on the East Front Plaza. To the extent possible, all historic elements are being reinstalled in their original locations.**

**Left: A mason sets a piece of Tennessee Valley marble floor stone in one of the CVC's two gift shops. Along with the floor stone, sandstone columns also help connect these spaces architecturally to the existing Capitol.**