



# United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

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Inside the Capitol Visitor Center, all major finish work is complete for both the North and South (pictured above) Orientation Theaters. During the peak of the tourist season, the theaters combined will accommodate 1,500 visitors per hour or approximately 12,000 visitors a day. Both theaters will showcase the same 13-minute orientation film, “Out of Many, One,” which will educate people about the work and history of the Congress and the Capitol. The show times will be staggered to help manage the flow of visitors into the Capitol building.

## **This Week – Ongoing Work – 3/10/08 through 3/14/08**

- Throughout the CVC, technicians continue final acceptance testing on the facility’s complex fire and life-safety systems. This process is still on schedule to be completed this summer.
- All of the construction trailers have now been removed from the House “Egg” on the East Capitol Grounds clearing the way for sod placements and other landscape restoration work.
- Masons have completed all major floor and wall stone work at the Crypt, Rotunda and Gallery levels inside the East Front Extension of the Capitol. This week, masons completed the installation of the stair-tread stones on the south stair.
- Painters, carpenters, plumbers, masons, electricians, cleaning crews and other professionals continue to address punch-list items throughout the facility.
- Professional cleaning crews continue to wash down stone surfaces in preparation of final inspections.
- Audio-visual technicians continue to make adjustments to the sound and projection systems in the North and South Orientation Theaters and the Congressional Auditorium. Testing of the systems is now 75 percent complete.
- In the House stairwell atrium, masons completed re-setting the pre-cast terrazzo stair treads after making minor leveling adjustments to the concrete structure below. Work on the terrazzo stair landings is expected to begin later this month. Metal workers completed work on the bronze handrails in the House stairwell atrium and are now completing final “patina” work on the handrails in the Senate stairwell atria.



The exceptional work of the many stone masons teams who have worked on the CVC has already won numerous craftsmanship awards for its high quality as exemplified in this complex and grand circulation zone near the Congressional Auditorium.

- Beginning next week, a crew is expected to begin installation of a 10-foot-tall touchable model of the Capitol Dome that will be located in the center of the CVC Exhibition Hall.
- Ceiling panel installation and terrazzo floor work are ongoing in the pedestrian tunnel to the Library of Congress.
- Metal workers may begin installing decorative bronze façade panels near the CVC Entrance doors.

## **Next Week – 3/17/08 – 3/21/08**

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

- Technicians will continue the final testing process for the CVC’s complex fire and life-safety systems. This work will continue into this summer.
- Outside, landscape crews will continue work to level the grade of the South Egg (grassy oval) and prepare the grounds for sod placements and plantings that will occur later this spring.
- Punch-list work will continue throughout interior spaces as millwork, wall stone, floor stone, grout lines, painted surfaces, ceiling panels, plaster work, doors, and other finish materials are inspected and deficiencies corrected.
- Masons will continue grout work and other stone detail work at the Rotunda and Gallery levels in the East Front of the Capitol. Preliminary work may begin to prepare the interior Rotunda Door transition area walls for the millwork threshold panels and installation of the wood doors.
- Workers are expected to complete finishing work on the bronze handrails in the Senate stairwell atrium. Terrazzo work on the landings in each of the stairwell atria is expected to continue through March.



Stone grout work is one of the many punchlist work items now being executed throughout the CVC interiors.