

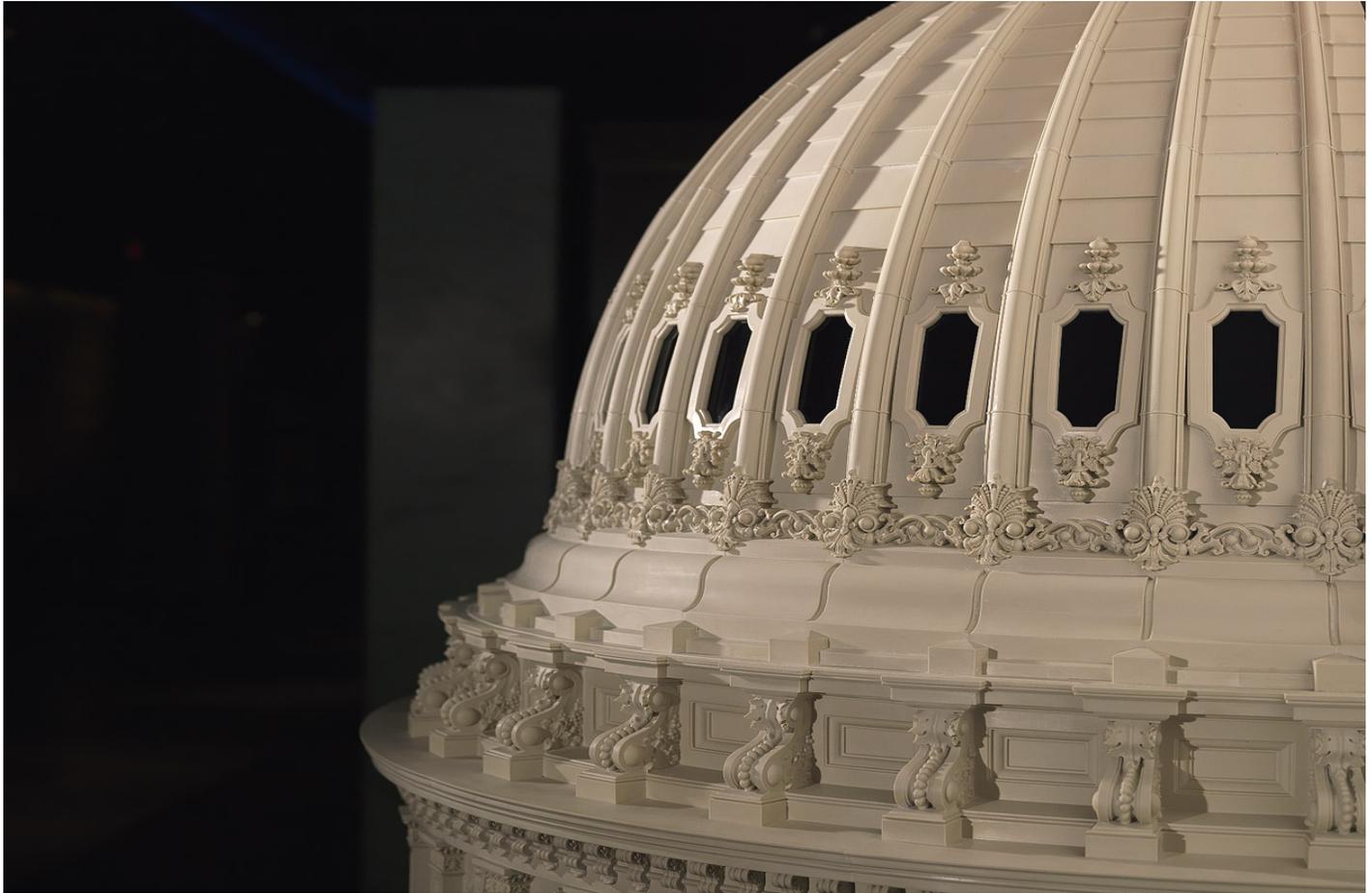


# United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

March 31, 2008



An evening view of the Capitol Dome? Not quite. Last week, model makers completed the installation of an 11-foot-high 1:20 scale model of the Capitol Dome that is situated in the center of the CVC Exhibition Hall. A combination of historical drawings and laser scans were used to make the initial 2-D drawings, which were then verified by the AOC architectural historian. After their accuracy was verified, the drawings were converted to 3-D renderings that were used by a sophisticated machine to generate clear resin molds with details up to one one-thousandth of an inch. Pieces are then cast into negative silicone molds which become the “masters” for all cast pieces of that type. Final pieces are achieved by pouring liquid polyurethane, colored to AOC dome paint specifications, into molds until they are hardened before final assembly. The model never needs to be painted since the color is impregnated into the mold.

## **This Week – Ongoing Work – 3/31/08 through 4/4/08**

- 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. Masons have also 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.
- During the recess, crews removed the hoist that was temporarily anchored to the original south wing of the Capitol.
- Audio-visual technicians continue to make adjustments to the sound and projection systems in the North and South Orientation Theaters and the Congressional Auditorium. The Orientation Theater screens are now being removed temporarily to clear the way for final painting work behind the screens.

- Metal workers completed work on the bronze handrails in the House and Senate stairwell atria and are preparing for the follow-on terrazzo work on the stairwell landings.
- An 11-foot-tall touchable model of the Capitol Dome has been installed in the center of the CVC Exhibition Hall. Nearly two years in the making, the model provides both exterior and interior views and meticulously replicates the Dome's complex architectural and artistic details, including the Statue of Freedom and the east Rotunda paintings.
- In the pedestrian tunnel to the Library of Congress, ceiling panel installation is nearly 70 percent complete and terrazzo floor work is now progressing from the east end moving west back toward the CVC.
- The First Street NE sidewalk opposite the Supreme Court has been restored. The CVC truck entrance at that location since 2002 has been completely dismantled and the area has been restored to a pedestrian zone.



With the exception of punch-list work, all major public spaces in the CVC, like Emancipation Hall depicted here, are essentially complete. Fire alarm testing continues and is still on track to be completed this summer. An approximate three-month operational “ramp-up” period will then follow allowing for operational policies and procedures to be refined and tested before a formal opening to the public.

## **Next Week – 4/7/08 – 4/11/08**

### **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 in April.
- 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.
- Terrazzo work will continue along the eastern half of the LOC tunnel. Ceiling panel installation will near completion.