

THOLOS

**FEATURE:
SOWING THE SEEDS
OF VICTORY**

**PROJECT UPDATES:
CANNON RENEWAL PROJECT &
BARTHOLDI PARK RENOVATION**

**BEHIND THE SCENES:
SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS
MASONRY BRANCH**



10

FEATURE: To mark the centennial of the U.S. entering World War I, Library Buildings and Grounds staff recreated period-appropriate “War Gardens.”

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COVER: A view of the U.S. Capitol from the grounds of the Thomas Jefferson Building. *Photo by James Rosenthal*

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BEHIND THE SCENES:
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Signs of Respect

Many of our monumental buildings on Capitol Hill were designed and constructed using classical orders of architecture. When designing and constructing the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center (CVC), we were challenged to design and construct a building using modern materials and technology that is a respectful addition to the historic U.S. Capitol.

One prevailing philosophy in architecture is that a building should reflect the time and values in which it is built. When making additions to historic buildings, we are not to copy or try to match the historic building, but rather we are to differentiate the new features so we don't create a false sense of history. New should look new and old should remain old. When connecting to a historic building, an addition should have some subtle and respectful ties to that building.

The architectural palate of the CVC echoes design precedents found throughout the U.S. Capitol, with some modern elements to reflect a more contemporary building. The next time you head to the CVC:

- Take in the sandstone walls. That material isn't normally used today, but mimics the Rotunda in the heart of the U.S. Capitol. The stone colors surrounding the doors in the Rotunda were replicated in many areas in the CVC to link it to the U.S. Capitol's original construction materials.
- Identify the inset grout lines in all the wall stone. Every third course of stone is marked by a thin band, which serves to emphasize a linear and more modern appearance of a steel frame and stone clad building.
- Examine the two Doric columns that visually support the entrance to Exhibition Hall. They were replicated from the Crypt.
- Look at the tall piers in Emancipation Hall, holding up the roof like classical columns, which have the slightest hint of a column capital on them made from a simple band of stone.
- Notice the skylights, which allow natural light to bathe interior spaces. They frame dramatic views of the Capitol Dome, helping visitors maintain an orientation



Photo by Chuck Badal

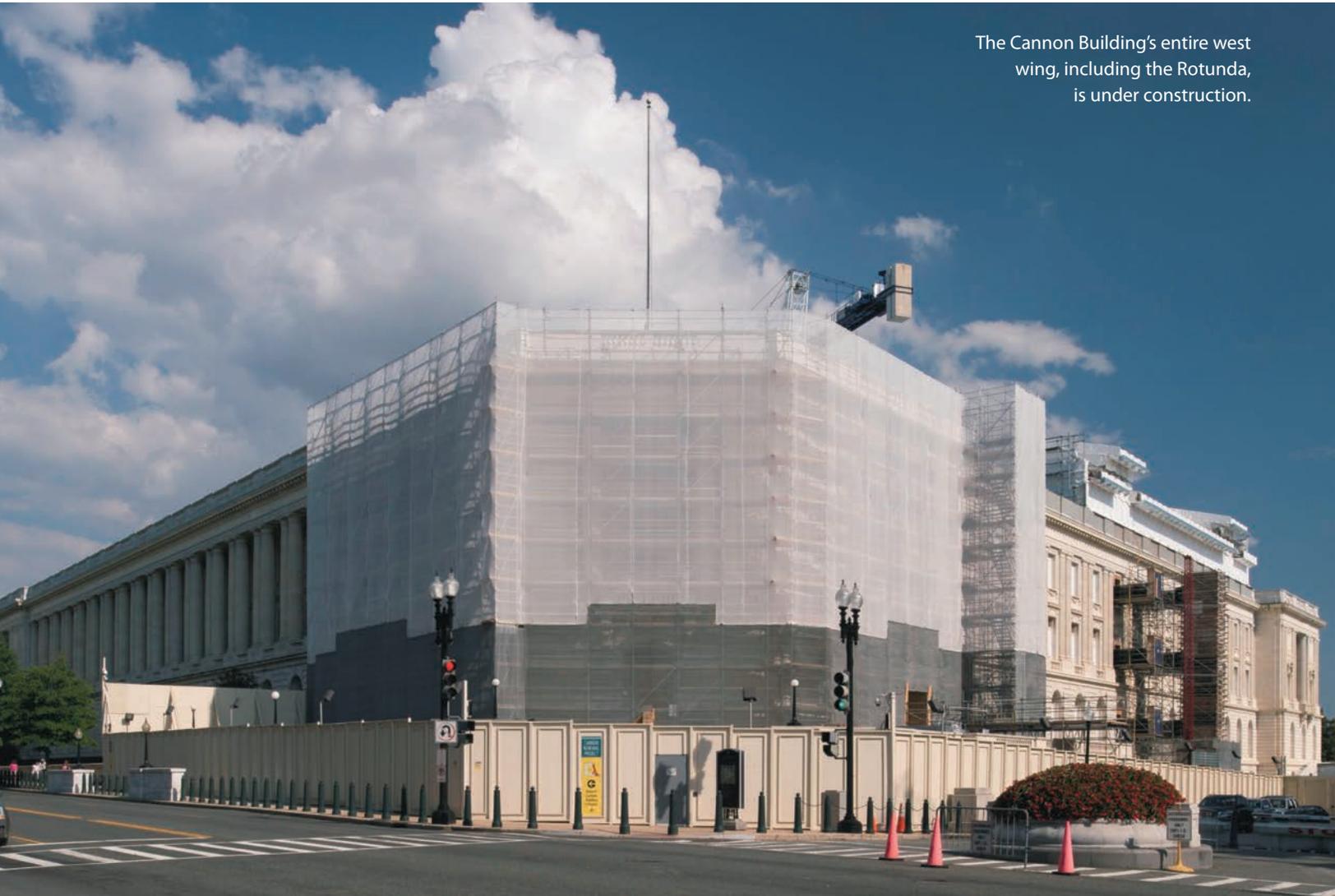
to the historic building, while reinforcing their connection to the U.S. Capitol.

Even the exterior was designed to carefully integrate with the landscape of the historic U.S. Capitol Grounds, originally designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1874. The skylights are only slightly above ground level as not to intrude upon or compete with the U.S. Capitol façade.

The CVC was designed to be respectful to the architectural style and texture of the U.S. Capitol. A simple, yet powerful, sign of respect for the classical orders. Or better yet, the classics interpreted in a fully modern way. ❁

Stephen T. Ayers, FAIA, LEED AP
Architect of the Capitol

The Cannon Building's entire west wing, including the Rotunda, is under construction.



Cannon Renewal Project

WRITTEN BY KRISTEN FREDERICK • PHOTOS BY CHUCK BADAL

Work continues around the clock on the Cannon Renewal Project, with the current phase scheduled for completion in November 2018. The entire west side of the building along New Jersey Avenue, from the basement to the fifth floor, is closed for renovation.

Major construction activity includes demolishing and rebuilding the fifth floor, conserving the exterior stone façade and rehabilitating the individual office suites.

For the latest updates and photos, visit www.aoc.gov/cannon.



A cleaning agent is sprayed on the Guastavino tile ceiling in the basement rotunda.



Scaffolding installation in the Rotunda.



Paint removal from an office suite doorframe.



A circular grinder is used to remove grout from the building's stone façade.



Demolition debris removal.

PROJECT UPDATES



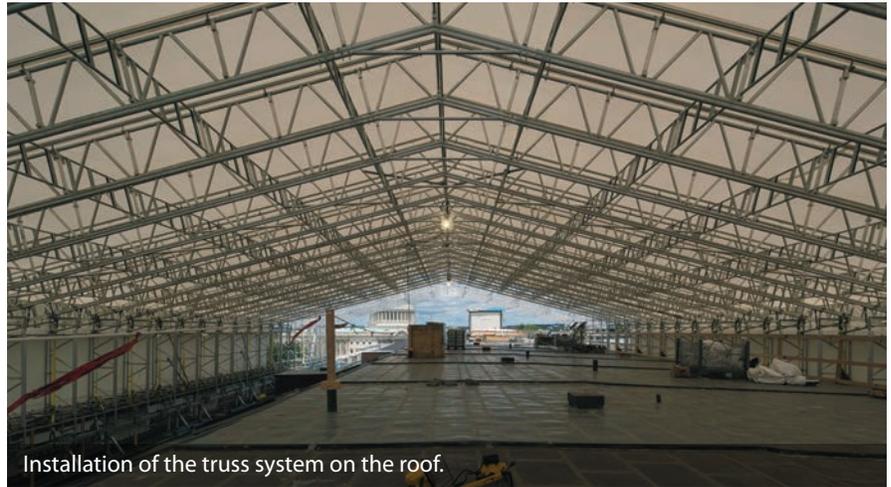
Repointing the building's stone façade.



The stone façade receives a thorough cleaning.



A stone balustrade is prepared for installation on the southwest terrace.



Installation of the truss system on the roof.



The protective roof covering system will surround the existing roof during the demolition of the fifth floor.



A view of the renovated Bartholdi Park.

Renovated Bartholdi Park is a SITE(S) to Behold

WRITTEN BY DEVIN DOTSON AND RAY MIMS • PHOTOS BY SUSANNE BLEDSOE

Bartholdi Park is a wonderful spot for eating lunch, finding a new favorite plant, enjoying a quiet moment and taking a break from a busy day. Originally created in 1932, the U.S. Botanic Garden's (USBG) Bartholdi Park had served as a changing home demonstration garden for more than 80 years, and until last year, had not undergone a renovation since its original construction.



Salvaged stone was reused to build the kitchen garden walls.

With the National Park Service's new American Veterans Disabled for Life

Memorial next door, the park was designed and renovated to address aging infrastructure and to increase its sustainability and accessibility features. The pathways are now accessible, access to the memorial is improved and new lighting increases safety in the park.

As planning of the Bartholdi Park renovation was underway, the USBG also worked to develop the Sustainable SITES Initiative® with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the American Society of Landscape Architects. The USBG team is currently submitting Bartholdi Park for certification through the Sustainable SITES Initiative® (SITES), which is a program for certifying sustainable landscaping projects. To provide a showcase for SITES principles and the USBG's commitment to sustainability, the Bartholdi Park renovation incorporated the five main focus areas of sustainable landscaping including: hydrology, soil, vegetation, materials and human health.

WATER

D.C., like many older cities, has a combined sewer system — meaning that rainwater runs into storm drains that connect to the sewer system, and any overflow empties into the river instead of heading to a water treatment plant. SITES aims to reduce runoff into the sewer system, to capture rainwater on-site and, if not storing it for reuse, to get it to percolate into the ground. Plants



The salvaged flagstone path allows visitors a close view of rain gardens.

and soil filter the water and, in combination with the rain gardens, slow it down so that it stays on-site or moves more slowly into the storm sewer. This helps prevent overflows from occurring in the combined sewer system that would then be diverted into nearby rivers.

In the updated Bartholdi Park, 10 newly created rain gardens capture the rain that falls within the park and allow it to soak into the ground. The rain gardens divert water from the combined sewer system and can accept up to 4,000 cu. ft. of water in a 24-hour storm event — that's equivalent to 256 bathtubs of water. The total amount of impervious concrete surface was reduced to decrease runoff

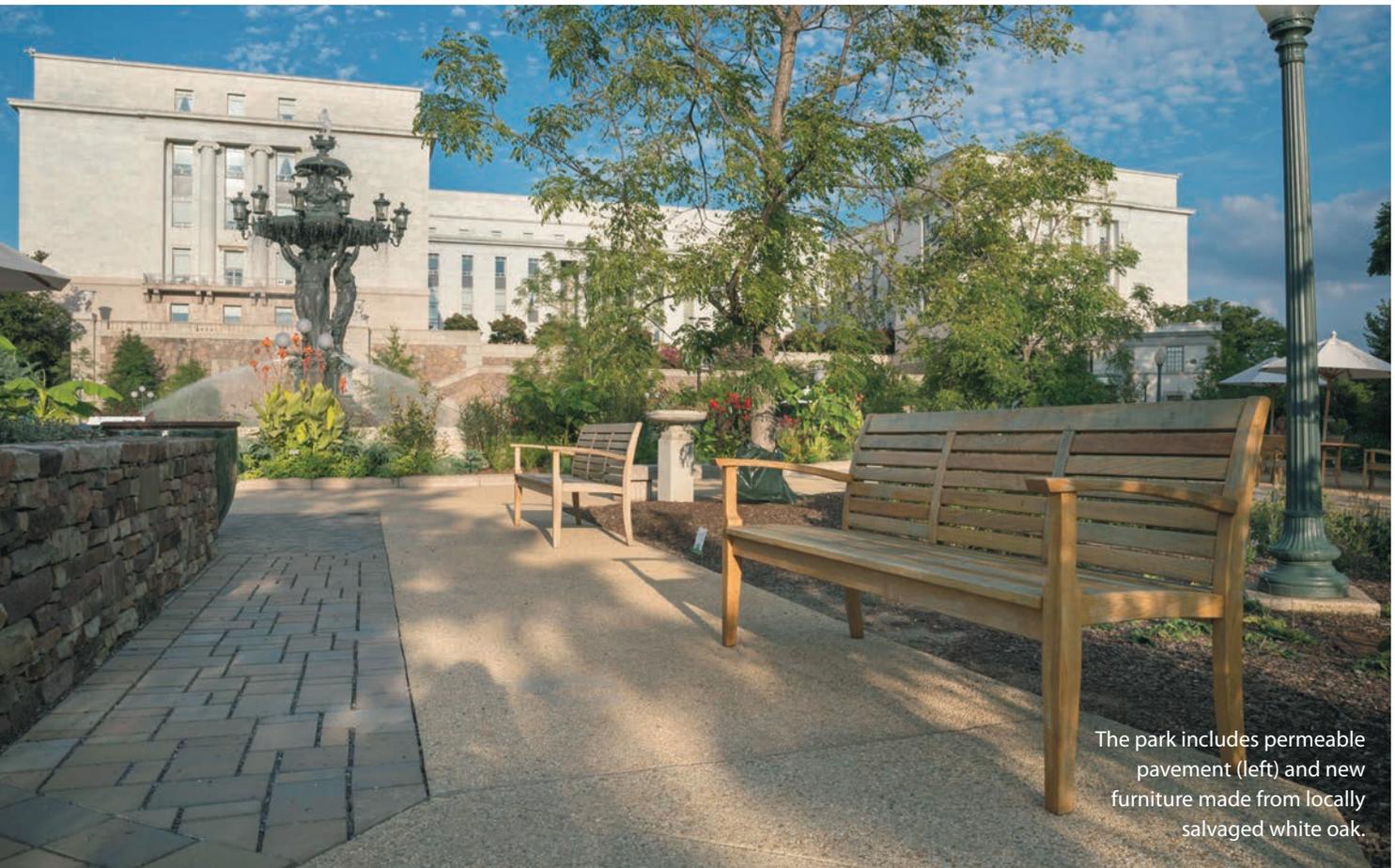
and impervious paths are slightly sloped to direct water into the rain gardens.

PLANTS

Being a public garden and an accredited museum with living collections, the USBG has a strong focus on growing and displaying plants and educating visitors about them. The gardens in Bartholdi Park showcase native plants and a collection of edible plants through both permanent and seasonal plantings in a new kitchen garden. The rain gardens feature plants that can handle periodic water inundation and dry conditions, like the showy hibiscus, swamp rose and numerous native grasses.



The kitchen garden features annuals like swiss chard as well as perennial plantings.



The park includes permeable pavement (left) and new furniture made from locally salvaged white oak.



LEFT: A glimpse of the park's centerpiece, the *Fountain of Light and Water*, commonly called the Bartholdi Fountain.

Throughout the project, the USBG saved multiple large trees and shrubs and other plants were reused in gardens on Capitol Hill and D.C. Public Schools. The majority of the new plantings are plants native to the Mid-Atlantic area, and non-native plants that are regionally appropriate, not recognized as invasive, and are able to handle the area's heat, humidity, rainfall and damp winters.

SOIL

Soil is a living system. It is important to protect it during construction, and not allow it to become compacted.

During the renovation, topsoil was removed and saved off-site, amended with organic compost and returned to the park for the new plantings. In areas where plants were saved, the soil was also protected from compaction.

MATERIALS

Another component of SITES is reduction of waste both during and after construction, reusing materials, and purchasing locally and sustainably. Existing concrete sidewalks were crushed and brought back and used as the base layer under the new sidewalks. Previous stone walls were disassembled and reused in the new walls for the raised kitchen garden. Flagstone from previous pathways, as well

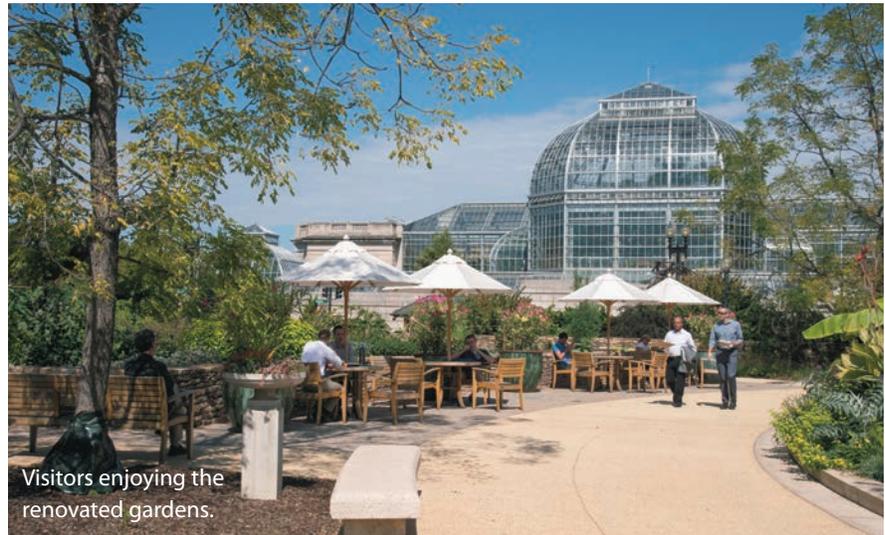
as flagstone, brick and curbstone salvaged from other AOC projects were reused to create new paths, seating areas and the sunken bog. To include furnishings that were locally made and sustainably sourced, a local Virginia company built furniture from a white oak that had fallen naturally during a storm.

HUMAN HEALTH

SITES also focuses on improving human health through the benefits offered by a garden landscape. Studies show that connecting with nature can improve human health and well-being. Bartholdi Park continues to provide a place for people to rest and connect with nature.

The USBG is offering opportunities to help people connect with nature through programs in Bartholdi Park including yoga and nature-in-motion walks. Other programs for the public include tours explaining the sustainable features throughout the park and how people can incorporate the ideas in their own gardens. Ideas for future programming include cooking demonstrations, classes on urban agriculture, growing edible plants at home and programs specifically for veterans.

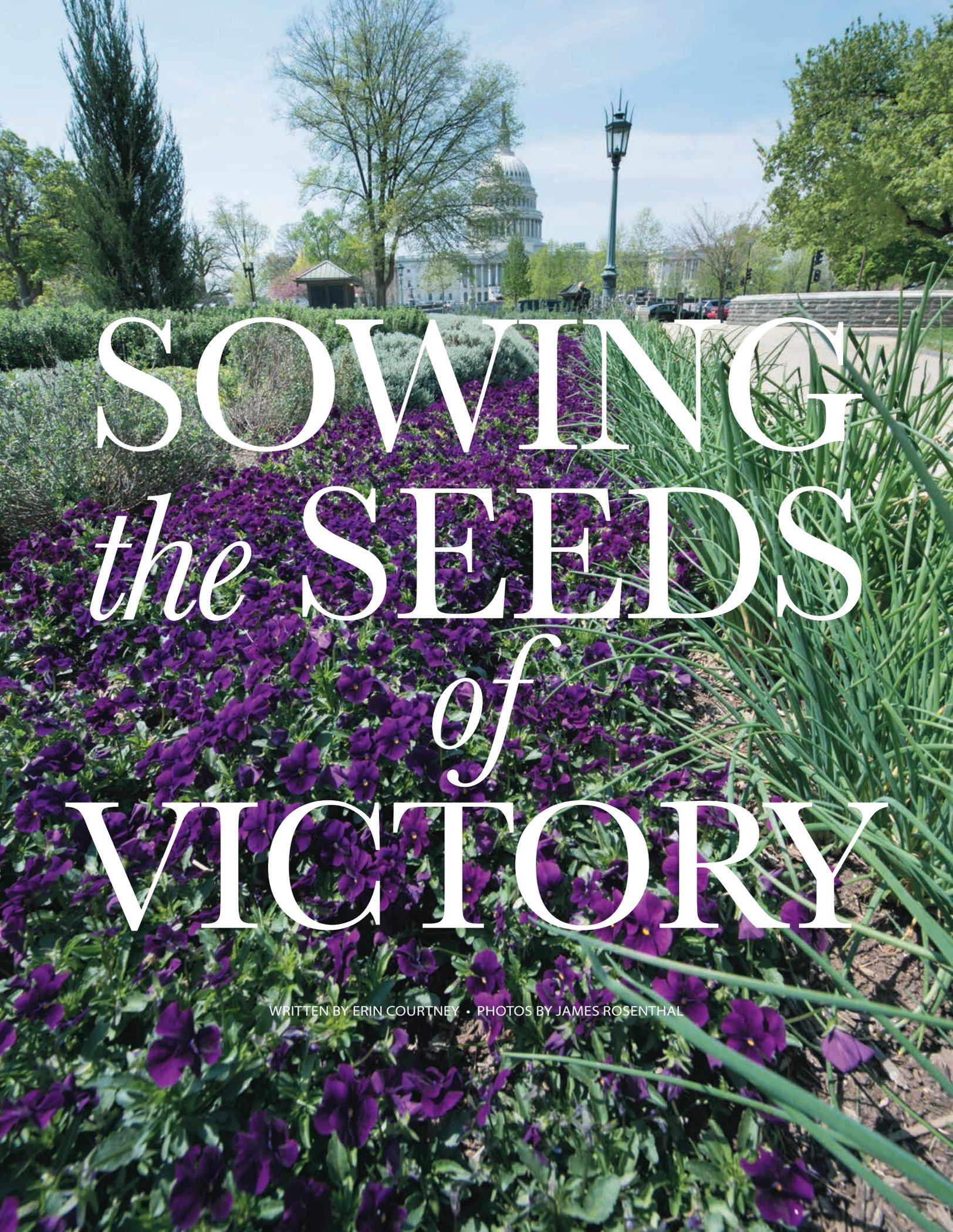
The renovated Bartholdi Park continues to have demonstration and educational gardens and now features additional seating, native North American plants, patio gardens, rain gardens, a kitchen garden and accessible gardening areas. Bartholdi Park is poised to welcome visitors from across the U.S. and around the globe for the next 80 years. ❁



Visitors enjoying the renovated gardens.



Most large trees, including the Kentucky coffee trees around the fountain, were saved in place.



SOWING
the SEEDS
of
VICTORY

WRITTEN BY ERIN COURTNEY • PHOTOS BY JAMES ROSENTHAL



At the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, the United States remained on the sidelines as America continued to engage in commerce with European countries on both sides of the conflict. However, by early 1917 the United States had begun to prepare for war.

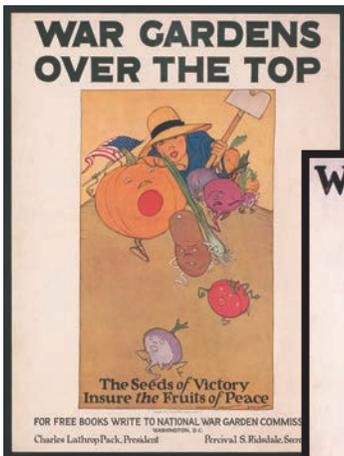
Following the sinking of the ocean liner *Lusitania* and other commercial and passenger vessels, public opinion turned against Germany. By February of 1917, Congress passed a \$250 million appropriations bill to ready the United States for war. On April 2, President Woodrow Wilson abandoned his policy of neutrality and called on Congress to declare war against Germany.

To mark the centennial of the United States entering World War I, the Architect of the Capitol's Library Buildings and Grounds team recreated period-appropriate "War Gardens" in raised beds located on the grounds of the Thomas Jefferson Building. The gardens coordinate with war-related exhibits at the Library of Congress and the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center.



Radishes harvested from the War Gardens. The gardens produced hundreds of pounds of food for charity.

The Library of Congress' Chief of Visitor Services, Giulia Adelfio, suggested planting vegetables to tie into their upcoming exhibit. "I remembered that in 2000 as part of the Library of Congress bicentennial celebration, the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) planted flowers based on a garden in 1800. That memory along with seeing the herb and greens perennial bed already planted in front of the Jefferson Building gave me the idea," she said. Ultimately, Adelfio reached out to the AOC gardening team



Period posters encouraging Americans to garden circa 1917. Photos courtesy of the Library of Congress

to pitch the idea and was pleased with the enthusiastic response.

Members of the gardening team brought the suggestion to Superintendent Larry Brown. "I was excited and pleased about the idea. It made me research and learn more about the War Gardens and the impact the gardens had on our country," he said. Three million new garden plots were planted in 1917 and more than 5.2 million gardens were cultivated in 1918. The gardens generated an estimated 1.45 million quarts of canned fruits and vegetables. By the end of World War I, the home gardening effort was referred to as victory gardens. "We are often focused on the historic buildings and infrastructure that exists and its importance to the history of our country, especially on Capitol Hill, a softer and less prominent history such as War Gardens holds a special significance for our country that should be known and represented," said Brown.

According to Robert Gimpel, a gardener with the AOC, "War gardens were the brainchild of Charles Lathrop Pack and his National War Garden Commission. During the war, a severe food crisis emerged in Europe, as farmworkers enlisted in the military and agricultural lands became battlefields. To increase the self-sufficiency of the



The War Gardens were a labor of love for the AOC. Teams across the agency supported the project in a variety of ways, including creating signs like the one above to help visitors identify crops.

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United States, the National War Garden Commission was organized to increase the food supply for Americans through home gardening.” School children, housewives and patriotic citizens were encouraged to reclaim underused spaces, including public parks, school yards and private residences, to plant vegetable, fruit and herb gardens.

The Library Building and Grounds team researched 1917 vegetable crops to select heirloom varieties that were available to the public during the war years. The grounds team incorporated succession planting and companion planting into their garden plan. They also used period materials for staking and trellising. “Our only planned change from period practice was the artful arrangement of the crops in each bed to make the gardens more aesthetically pleasing. Straight-line row cropping was practiced at the time,” said Gimpel.

The gardening team grew a little bit of everything in the beds dedicated as War Gardens. Arugula, pole beans, beets, cabbage, chard, corn, cucumber, dill, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce,

onions, peas, hot and bell peppers, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, squash and tomatoes flourished on campus. “I used primary source documents to find crops that were complimentary and/or could be and would provide a full season of growth. Once I had identified which plants we would grow, I tried to find seed sources for cultivars that were specifically mentioned in the publications. When I wasn’t able to find a source for those varieties, I then scoured the catalogs for other varieties that had an introduction year before 1917,” said Gimpel. One bed, located on the northwest corner of the Jefferson Building, houses medicinal and culinary herbs and predates the War Garden project. The gardening team made no changes to that bed primarily because the herbs met the self-imposed requisite of being introduced before 1917.

Gardening Supervisor Sally Belcher grew up on a farm and had extensive knowledge of growing produce. She used the War Gardens as a way for members of her crew to work together and lead a project from start to finish.

Rob Gimpel checks on War Garden tomato vines at the southeast corner of the Jefferson Building.



“I gave my input and suggestions when needed but for the most part, I let Rob and his fellow gardeners run with it. Watching the crew collaborate together to complete this project and get this much praise has been incredible. Being able to share compliments with them about the War Gardens has helped increase morale in our shop,” said Belcher.

In fact, the War Gardens project was a great example of the AOC operating as one team, one mission. To get the needed heirloom varieties, nearly all of the vegetables were started from seeds. Many of the vegetables were sown straight into the beds while others, like tomatoes and peppers, had to be started in a greenhouse. The U.S. Botanic Gardens (USBG) provided the library gardeners with greenhouse space at the production facility, pots, potting soil, water and fertilizer. Gardeners with the USBG helped take care of the plants until they were ready to be planted in the War Garden beds. The Library Buildings and Grounds machine shop manufactured posts for garden signs and the carpenter shop engraved plant labels. The Photography Branch took photos of the gardens throughout the growing season. And the Communications and Congressional Relations team designed signs for the gardens and posted bi-weekly updates to the agency’s social media channels.

“The public response to the War Gardens is astonishing. While we get plenty of compliments from the public on our flowers and the general appearance of the grounds, I find that almost every person that walks past while I’m working there stops to read the signs, talks about the vegetables they see and tells us how great it looks,” said Gimpel.

Keeping a vegetable garden looking attractive as well as being productive is more labor intensive than flower plantings. Yet the Library grounds team rose to the challenge. Some of the plants were susceptible to various diseases and pests. White flies on the cabbage family vegetables, stem borers and squash bugs on the squash, and rodents nibbling on tomatoes were all confronted in-kind. The gardeners manually picked off eggs that they found from some insects, planted marigolds that have insect repellent properties, engaged in staking, and correct siting and co-planting to fend off pests. “Pest control is also where I found some of the limits to

ENHANCING VISITORS’ EXPERIENCE THROUGH FOOD

This summer, the Capitol Cafe menu items were inspired by the current Exhibition Hall rotation, “Congress and the World Wars” in the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC).

Beef and mushroom meatloaf, war bread and flourless chocolate cake, all developed from recipes created by the chef and based on research into the rationing of the time period, were available to visitors and staff on the Capitol campus.

“With these delicious foods, the new murals in the Cafe and exhibit-inspired items in the Gift Shops, we are creating a unified Capitol experience for our visitors,” said CVC CEO Beth Plemmons.



Rob Gimpel provided tours of the War Gardens to Library of Congress staff.

period-appropriate methods: The School Garden Army manual stated: ‘Arsenate of lead is the most generally useful insecticide for protecting crops from plant-biting insects.’ This pesticide has been out of common use since the 1950s, and banned since the 1980s. I think we’ll give that period material a pass,” said Gimpel.

Throughout the summer, gardener-guided tours were provided to the Library of Congress Cooking Club, Library of Congress Garden and Landscape Forum, Library of Congress Gallery Talk, Library of Congress Health and Fitness Wellness Fair, and AOC staff. Nearly 300,000 social media users followed the garden’s progress from seeds to harvest online. The garden updates were consistently the most popular posts throughout the summer and fall.

The primary purpose of the gardens is for educational display, however, crops harvested from the beds are donated to a local nonprofit. More than 400 pounds of produce was donated by the end of August with additional harvests expected through the remainder of the year.

“One of my favorite memories from this project happened the Monday morning after the first harvest. I opened the fridge in the shop to put my lunch away to find 54 pounds of turnips cleaned and stacked neatly on all the shelves with nowhere to put my lunch. It was quite a surprise to see that many turnips,” said Belcher.



AOC Superintendent of Library Buildings and Grounds Larry Brown joined Rob Gimpel and Sally Belcher for one of many donations to DC Central Kitchen.

Those turnips, and other produce from the War Gardens, were given to local nonprofit and social enterprise, DC Central Kitchen. The organization will use them to prepare the 5,000 daily meals they provide to nearby partner nonprofits and homeless shelters. “Fresh, healthy produce donated by the Architect of the Capitol through the War Gardens project is helping food-insecure individuals across Washington, D.C., while also allowing our nonprofit partners to focus their efforts on their unique missions, rather than meal service. We appreciate the hard work of the gardeners to grow product worthy of a top-rated restaurant and donating it to us as we help fight hunger, and ultimately poverty, in the nation’s capital,” said Chief Executive Officer of DC Central Kitchen Michael F. Curtin, Jr.

Gimpel also has grand plans for the fall and winter harvests. He’s hoping to raise money for the Combined Federal Campaign by auctioning off a giant pumpkin or bottles of hot sauce made from War Garden peppers or a salad lunch made from War Garden produce.

Gimpel, the son of a veteran, believes “it’s an honor to be a part of something that is commemorating the great effort and sacrifice of the troops at that time, and as importantly, how Americans on the home front came together to support the military effort, their country and their European allies.” ❁

O'Neill House Office Building

WRITTEN BY ERIN NELSON • PHOTOS BY DEWITT ROSEBOROUGH



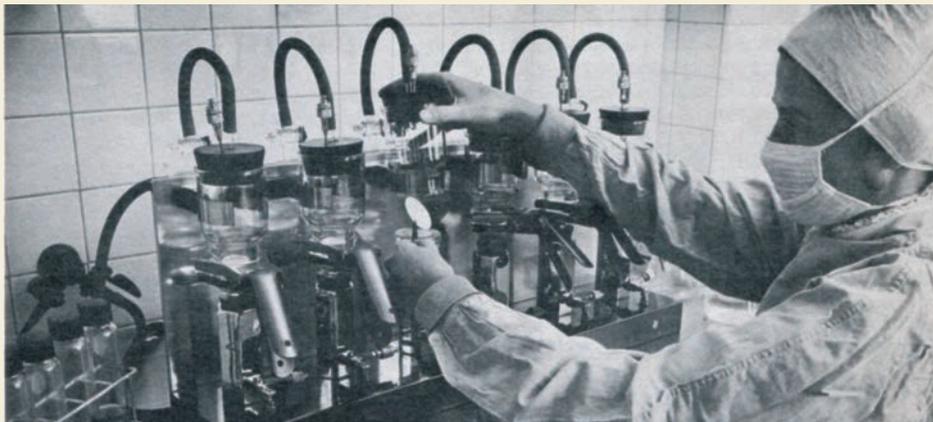
Federal Office Building No. 8, now known as the Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. House Office Building, under original construction. *Photo courtesy of the FDA*

The O'Neill House Office Building was constructed in the early 1960s. Originally known as Federal Office Building No. 8, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to name the building after the late former Speaker of the House Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill in 2012.

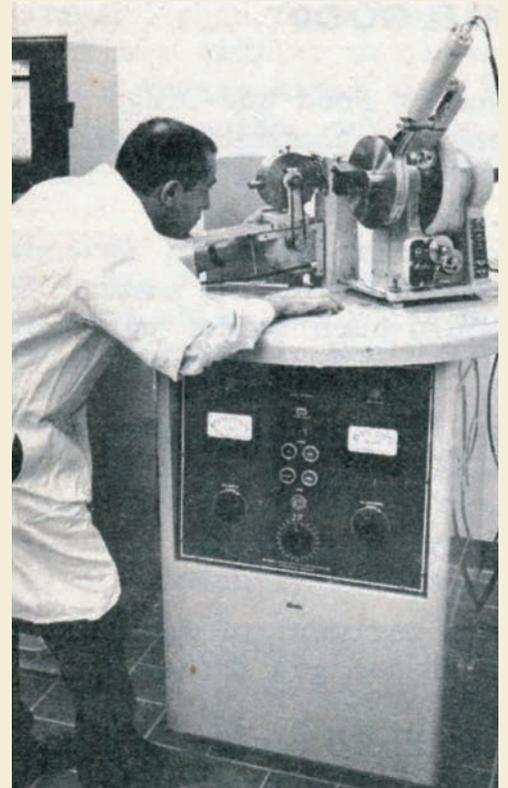
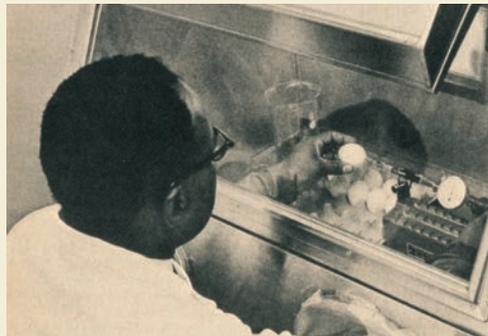
Federal Office Building No. 8 was the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) first modern home, built solely for its use. Over two thirds

of the building housed working laboratory space, while offices filled in the rest.

The FDA's chemists, biologists, microbiologists and others oversaw many laboratory-based responsibilities during their time in the building. Staff carried out certifications of all antibiotics and insulin to ensure their compliance with approved standards of quality, purity and potency. They also analyzed samples of foods for



FDA scientists photographed at work for the agency's Food and Drug Review, which was published in 1966. *Photos courtesy of the FDA*





The renovation of the O'Neill Building modernized the facility and added an abundance of natural light.

residues of pesticides, antibiotics and other matter and performed a number of drug-related studies. The FDA's laboratory scientists were among the primary contributors to the Association of Official Analytical Chemists Methods of Analysis, a methodology that represented the best known means of determining analytical results. Numerous tests and studies continued for decades in support of the FDA's mission to protect public health.

In 2002, due to the need for more space and the building's

deteriorating conditions, the FDA vacated the building. The General Services Administration, the building's caretaker at the time, explored many options for the facility given its prime real estate location near the U.S. Capitol. Federal Office Building No. 8 underwent a major renovation and reopened for occupancy in 2014.

In addition to an open-plan office space, the modernized facility also now includes a green roof and natural light aplenty, something that was missing due to the original building's

limited number of windows. The renovation transformed the dark interior spaces by providing two six-story atriums, a central atrium skylight, and glass curtain walls on the east and west façades.

In June 2017, care of the O'Neill Building was transferred from the General Services Administration to the Architect of the Capitol, where its unique architectural details will continue to be maintained and preserved along with the other buildings of the iconic Capitol campus. ❁

Senate Office Buildings Masonry Branch

WRITTEN BY ELIZABETH YODER

Some Architect of the Capitol employees are highly visible, while others work behind the scenes to preserve the awe-inspiring facilities on Capitol Hill.

The Senate Office Buildings Masonry Branch, which includes 11 full-time employees, begins at 4 a.m. each morning to be able to complete most of its work before the rest of the Senate community arrives for the day.

The masonry staff are true craftsmen — skilled at brick, tile, concrete, stone and decorative plaster — and they are passionate about stewardship and preservation of the Senate office buildings.

Their work is time consuming

and exacting, but, because of their skill, is largely invisible once it's complete. Masons restore marble, color matching the epoxy to carefully hide the seams. They clean granite in the Senate fountains which gets stained because of sediment in



LEFT: (left to right) Assistant Superintendent for Tenant Services Paul Kirkpatrick learns more about the mold making process from Senate Masonry Branch Supervisor Glenn DeVinney, who has been with the Architect of the Capitol for 20 years. MIDDLE: Abraham (A.J.) Jackson pours molding plaster into a mold to make an ornate rosette. RIGHT, TOP: (left to right) Abraham (A.J.) Jackson and Robert Gannon remove a mold from a plaster cast as part of historic preservation work in the Russell Building. RIGHT, BOTTOM: Robert Gannon smooths out imperfections in a plaster cast. *Photos by Susanne Bledsoe*



LEFT: Donald Kline removes failing caulking from the Russell Courtyard fountain. *Photo by Thomas Hatzenbuehler* RIGHT: Sean Carpenter cuts metal lath for a plaster repair. Sean, who participated in the Architect's Mobility Program, a two-year program to teach employees a technical trade, has been on staff since 2009. *Photo by Susanne Bledsoe*

the water. And they repair ornate decorative plaster elements which serve as focal points in key rooms in the Senate office buildings.

Masonry staff also cut holes in the walls and the floor for needed infrastructure repairs and upgrades, then seamlessly repair them so that no one ever realizes that work has been done.

According to Masonry Branch Supervisor Glenn DeVinney, because the Russell Senate Office Building was built over 100 years ago, modern lighting, temperature-control systems and cabling must

be seamlessly integrated into the historic building to provide state-of-the-art offices and hearing rooms for senators and staff. For one upgrade in the Russell Building, masons had to cut through a brick wall that was four feet thick.

The Masonry Branch is also focused on sustainability, with staff incorporating the latest advancements in masonry, including environmentally safe stone cleaning products. It is also committed to historic preservation. The staff is currently working to create and

catalog molds of large decorative plaster elements in the Russell Building, which will be housed off-site in the event they are needed to recreate the historic plaster pieces.

As Assistant Superintendent for Tenant Services Paul Kirkpatrick states, "Not only does the Masonry Branch do an outstanding job of preserving historic masonry, but they also provide invaluable assistance to many other trade shops. So often they serve behind the scenes, but their work brings out the true grandeur of the Senate buildings." ❁

Growth in Major Facilities Under AOC's Care

WRITTEN BY ANDREW DENTAMARO • PHOTOS COURTESY OF AOC PHOTO BRANCH ARCHIVES

The Architect of the Capitol's (AOC) legacy is rooted in the very beginnings of Washington, D.C., with the laying of the U.S. Capitol cornerstone in 1793. As the country grew, so did the Capitol campus and, with it, the AOC's responsibilities.

2.7 million sq. ft.
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING



6.5 million sq. ft.
PENTAGON

18.4 million sq. ft.

CAPITOL CAMPUS

(Includes off-site facilities in D.C., Maryland and Virginia)



Over the course of our storied history, the AOC's footprint has increased substantially, and today we operate and care for more than 18.4 million square feet and 570 acres of grounds. Along with the sheer growth in size, the complexity of operating these facilities has also changed significantly. The number

of people who work within and visit the campus has skyrocketed, with thousands of daily occupants and more than 4.5 million annual visitors from throughout the U.S. and around the world. Here are a few key buildings that have contributed to the AOC's dramatic rise in square footage over the years.



1897 – THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDING

When it opened in 1897, the new home of the Library of Congress (LOC) was considered the most beautiful, educational and interesting building in Washington. In support of the largest library in the world at over 4.5 million square feet, the AOC manages four buildings on Capitol Hill (the Jefferson, Adams and Madison Buildings and the St. Cecilia Special Services Facilities Center) as well as facilities beyond Washington, D.C. (including the book storage modules in Maryland and the Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation in Virginia).

1935 – SUPREME COURT BUILDING

First occupied on October 7, 1935, Chief Justice William Howard Taft was behind the effort to provide the Supreme Court with its own 491,000 square foot building, moving out of the U.S. Capitol where it had been meeting since 1801. Although the courtroom could have been larger, Taft preferred a more intimate setting similar to the courtroom in the U.S. Capitol. The AOC also maintains the nearby Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building.



1982 – HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

The Hart Building was the third office structure designed and built to serve the U.S. Senate. The first occupant, Majority Leader Howard H. Baker, moved into the building in November 1982. The Hart Building — the largest of the three Senate office buildings — added nearly 1.3 million square feet to the Senate’s inventory of office and support space. The building’s solar panel system, dedicated in 2015, is one of the largest federal systems in the Washington, D.C., area and furthers the AOC’s commitment to sustainable, cost-efficient energy reduction measures.

2008 – CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Opened in 2008, the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) contains over 677,000 square feet on three levels and was designed to make the U.S. Capitol more accessible, convenient, secure and informative for millions of visitors each year. The design located the CVC below the U.S. Capitol’s East Front, so as to enhance rather than detract from the appearance of the iconic building and historic Frederick Law Olmsted landscape. Through national and international partnerships, outreach to schools across the country and a vibrant web presence, the CVC experience begins for visitors long before they set foot in the U.S. Capitol.



2017 – O’NEILL HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

The newest addition, the O’Neill Building, was transferred from the General Services Administration in June 2017 and added nearly 549,000 square feet to the AOC’s portfolio. Originally called Federal Office Building No. 8, the facility was renamed after the late Massachusetts Democrat and former Speaker of the House Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill in 2012. The newly public building is occupied by staff of various committees of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk of the House and legislative support organizations. *Photo by Dewitt Roseborough*



Communications and Congressional Relations
U.S. Capitol, Room SB-16
Washington, DC 20515

The Architect of the Capitol strives to meet its mission 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to **serve** Congress and the Supreme Court, **preserve** America's Capitol, and **inspire** memorable experiences for all who visit the buildings and grounds.

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The August solar eclipse captured at the U.S. Capitol.
Photo by Thomas Hatzenbuehler

