

# RENOVATION & EXPANSION OF

## HISTORY & TIMELINE



1826

- 1820 Architect George Hadfield wins the competition for the design of the building, commissioned to serve as Washington's City Hall.  
The building's cornerstone is laid on August 22.
- 1822 The District of Columbia's mayor and two city councils move into the building.
- 1824 Judicial functions, including the U.S. Circuit Court, the Orphans Court, and the Register of Wills, move into the building.
- 1826 The central and east wings of the building are completed.



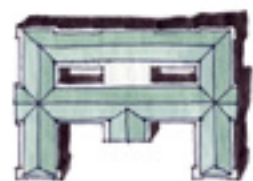
1849

- 1833-41 As District Attorney, Francis Scott Key occupies an office in the building.
- 1849 Construction of the west wing and all three south-facing porticos are completed, and the brick construction is faced with stucco. Financial constraints during this period result in a reduced version of Hadfield's original design, leaving unbuilt a grand, domed space planned for the north side facing Judiciary Square.
- 1858-60 The police headquarters of the District of Columbia are located in the courthouse.
- 1861-65 Rooms in the courthouse function as a temporary hospital, and prisoners of war are held in the basement cells during the Civil War.
- 1863 President Abraham Lincoln reorganizes the District judiciary system, creating a Supreme Court for the District of Columbia. Both the U.S. District Court and the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia are housed in the courthouse.
- 1867 John H. Surratt is tried in the courthouse for his part in the conspiracy to assassinate President Lincoln.
- 1868 Washington sculptor Lot Flannery's statue of Abraham Lincoln is dedicated on April 15, the third anniversary of Lincoln's assassination. It is the first public monument erected in Lincoln's memory.
- 1873 Congress appropriates funds to purchase the city's interest in the building. Municipal functions are subsequently removed, and the building is exclusively mandated for judicial use.



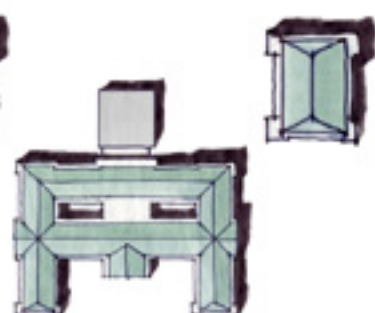
1881

- 1881 Construction begins on the north addition. Architect of the Capitol Edward Clark designs an extension to the building's north side that follows Hadfield's design vocabulary and includes an Ionic portico facing Judiciary Square. The new addition spans the entire length of the north façade and encloses two courtyards, which serve as light-wells, providing natural light and additional circulation space for the interior.  
Charles J. Guiteau is tried in the courthouse for the assassination of President James Garfield.
- 1883 The north addition is completed.
- 1889 Theodore Roosevelt is appointed to the Civil Service Commission. At the time of his appointment, the commission's offices are located in the west wing of the courthouse.
- 1894 Rooms on the upper floor of the west wing are renovated for use by the U.S. Court of Appeals, created as a judicial entity in 1893. The courthouse is home to the Court of Appeals, along with its other courts and judicial functions, until 1910.



1917

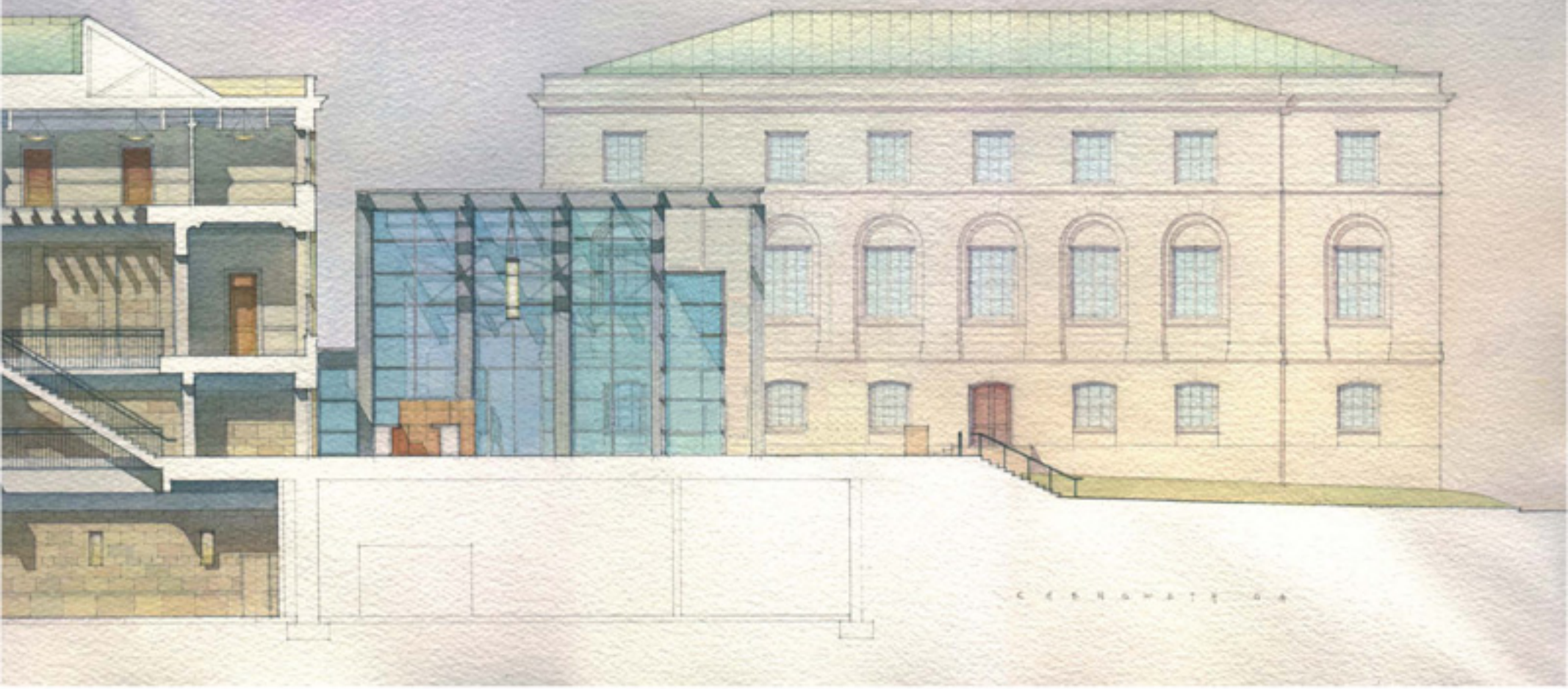
- Edward Clark's annual report begins to note the deterioration of the courthouse's stucco exterior.
- 1916 Congress appropriates funds for the reconstruction of the courthouse, which is overseen by Elliott Woods, Superintendent of the Capitol Buildings and Grounds.
- 1916-19 Under the guidance of Woods and associate architect Frank G. Pierson, the courthouse is essentially reduced to its brick shell and strengthened with concrete and steel. The renovation replicates the exterior features of the original designs of Hadfield and Clark in limestone on a granite base. Clark's north-facing portico, however, is not rebuilt. Woods and Pierson also reconfigure the interior to accommodate modern judicial practice, using decorative elements, such as marble columns and pilasters, which had not been included in the original design.
- 1922 The building is rededicated as the U.S. Courthouse on August 22, the 102nd anniversary of the original laying of the cornerstone in 1820.
- 1923 The Joseph J. Darlington Memorial Fountain is erected in the southwest corner of the courthouse property in memory of a long-time member of the D.C. Bar Association.
- 1938 The installation of the building's first air-conditioning system is completed.



2009

- 1952 The U.S. District Court moves out of the building into the new E. Barrett Prettyman Courthouse. The building subsequently becomes the headquarters for the Selective Service System.
- 1960 The courthouse is designated a National Historic Landmark.
- 1962 The building is returned to the District government.
- 1964 The courthouse is listed in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites.
- 1966 The local trial court (then called the Court of General Sessions) begins operating in the courthouse.  
The courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1999 The building is vacated by the District of Columbia Courts, the Public Defender Service, and the D.C. Office of the Corporation Counsel (now called the Office of Attorney General) in preparation for the renovation.
- 2009 Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners completes the renovation and expansion of the Historic Courthouse for the D.C. Court of Appeals.



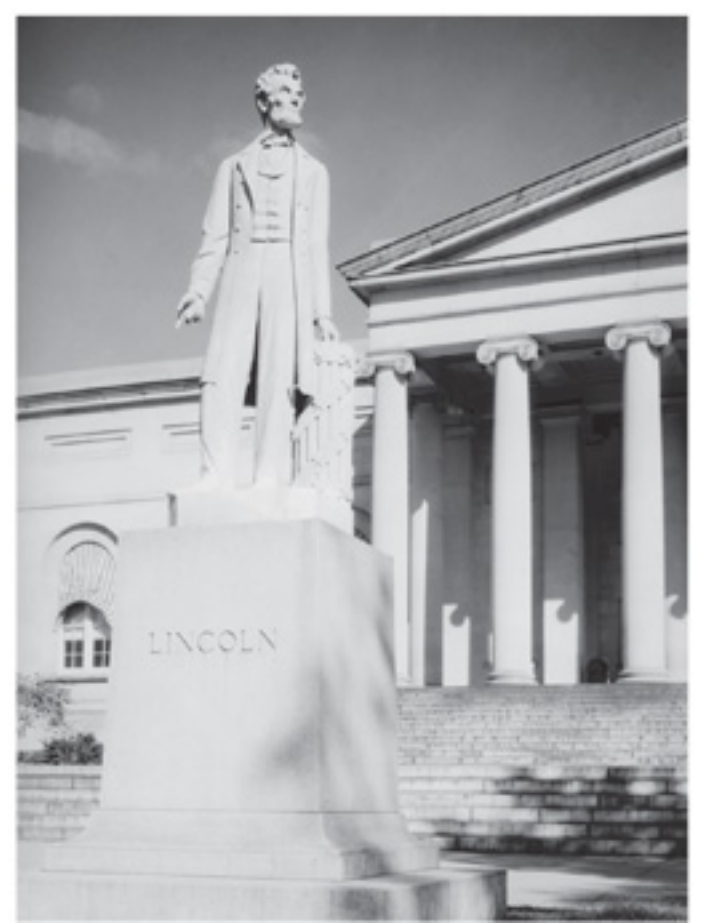


# THE HISTORIC DC COURTHOUSE



## ORIGINALLY DESIGNED BY GEORGE HADFIELD IN 1820

to serve as the first City Hall, the Historic D.C. Courthouse is a National Historic Landmark and one of the oldest public buildings in the District of Columbia. Vacant since 1999, the courthouse had been subject to numerous changes and additions over time and was in critical need of a comprehensive overhaul. In 2002, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals commissioned Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners to design a restoration and expansion program with the goal of returning the architectural landmark to its previous grandeur, while at the same time, transforming it into a state-of-the-art modern courthouse. Now completed, the courthouse stands as one of the most significant and complex historic preservation projects undertaken in Washington, DC.







Located between the White House and the U.S. Capitol, Judiciary Square is one of the original, historic green spaces identified for public use by Pierre L'Enfant and is considered to be one of the most important green spaces in Washington, second in importance only to the National Mall. After years of disrepair, Judiciary Square has now been re-greened and revitalized through the removal of surface parking, the return of architectural and sculptural elements to proper use, and new landscaping. And as the centerpiece of Judiciary Square, the restored courthouse plays a powerful architectural role in its rejuvenation.



A new plaza and entrance pavilion on the north side were designed to re-orient the courthouse to address Judiciary Square, as originally intended, and to engage with the surrounding ensemble of court buildings. Designed as a contemporary interpretation of the original north side portico, the new pavilion harmonizes with the proportions and character of the historic structure while being unmistakably modern.



Constructed of steel and glass, it spans the center bay of the north façade at a height of two stories, leaving the third-story windows unobstructed. The structure's transparency allows visibility to the existing buildings



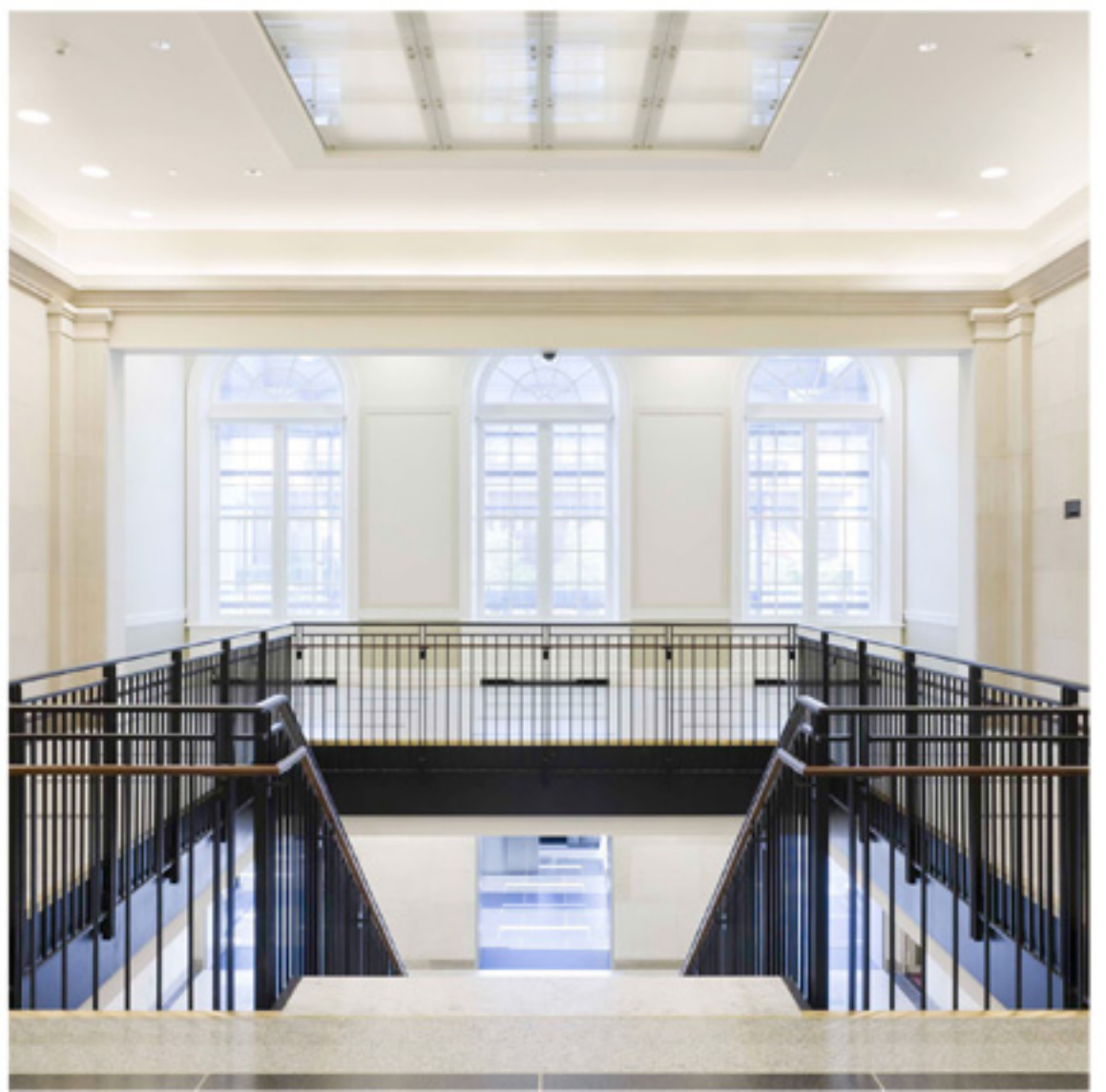




beyond and provides a new aesthetic presence on Judiciary Square, while also giving the courthouse a scale and dignity comparable to the adjacent civic buildings. The pavilion represents a fundamental design concept: a juxtaposition of the contemporary addition and new ceremonial courtroom on the north-south axis with the original restored, traditional core of the building on the east-west axis.

The south façade and previous entrance, with its grand steps leading to a colonnaded portico, has been preserved; and the Lincoln statue which has stood at the base of those steps since 1868, has been renovated and restored to its place.

The transformation of a nearly 200-year-old building into a 21st-century courthouse required the integration of expanded facilities and modern systems with minimal disruption to the historic structure. This presented a variety of complex structural, mechanical, and engineering challenges, the most significant of which was the excavation of the new ceremonial courtroom beneath the courthouse's grand, south-side portico of a reception space directly below the historic building lobby.



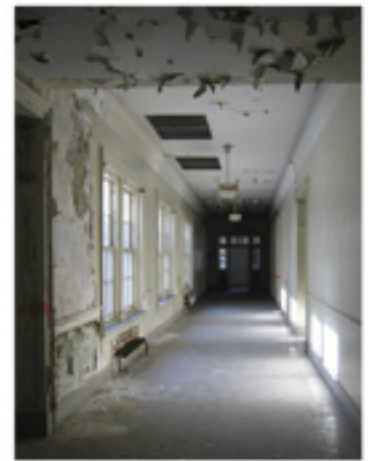
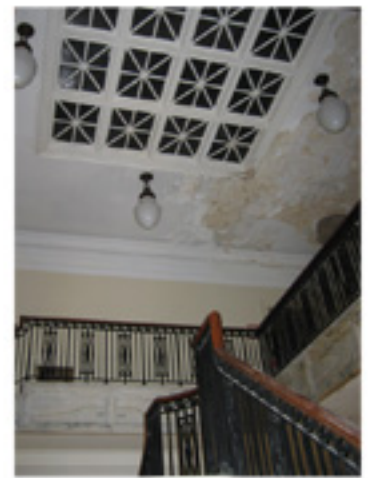
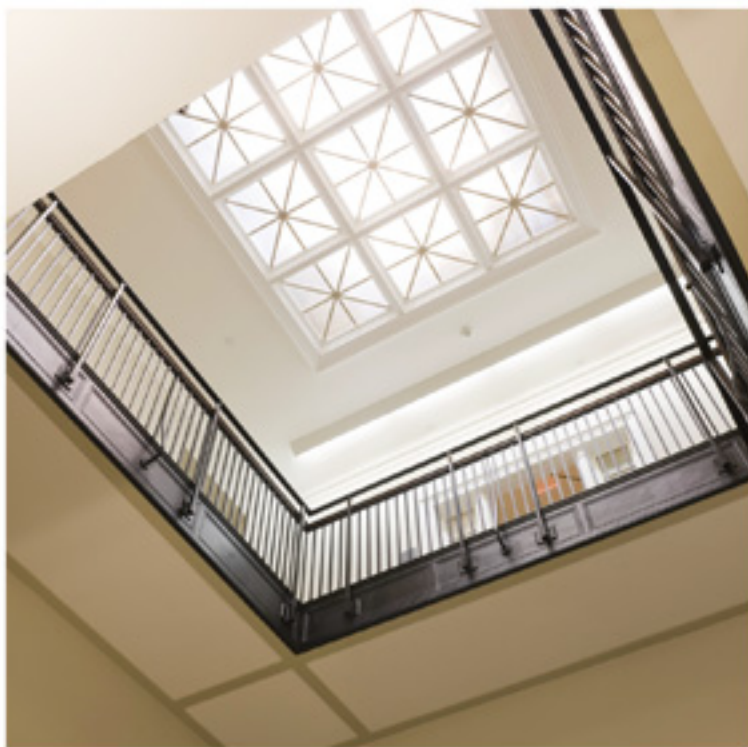




In order to allow this, the original stone and brick support structure below needed to be removed in its entirety – with the portico in place – and replaced with a complex, steel structural framework. Once the weight of the portico had been temporarily transferred over to the new steel system, all of the original masonry support below could be demolished one column at a time.

While carefully integrated new elements were incorporated into the building's core, the renovation also preserved as much of the historic fabric as possible. The new, 42,000 square feet of facilities – including a grand ceremonial courtroom, reception and exhibit space, and administrative facilities – were built below grade on the south side of the building, thereby maintaining the integrity of the historic façade. This configuration also allowed for mechanical equipment to be located in the residual space between the existing foundation wall and the foundation of the new parking garage, further minimizing the impact on the historic structure.

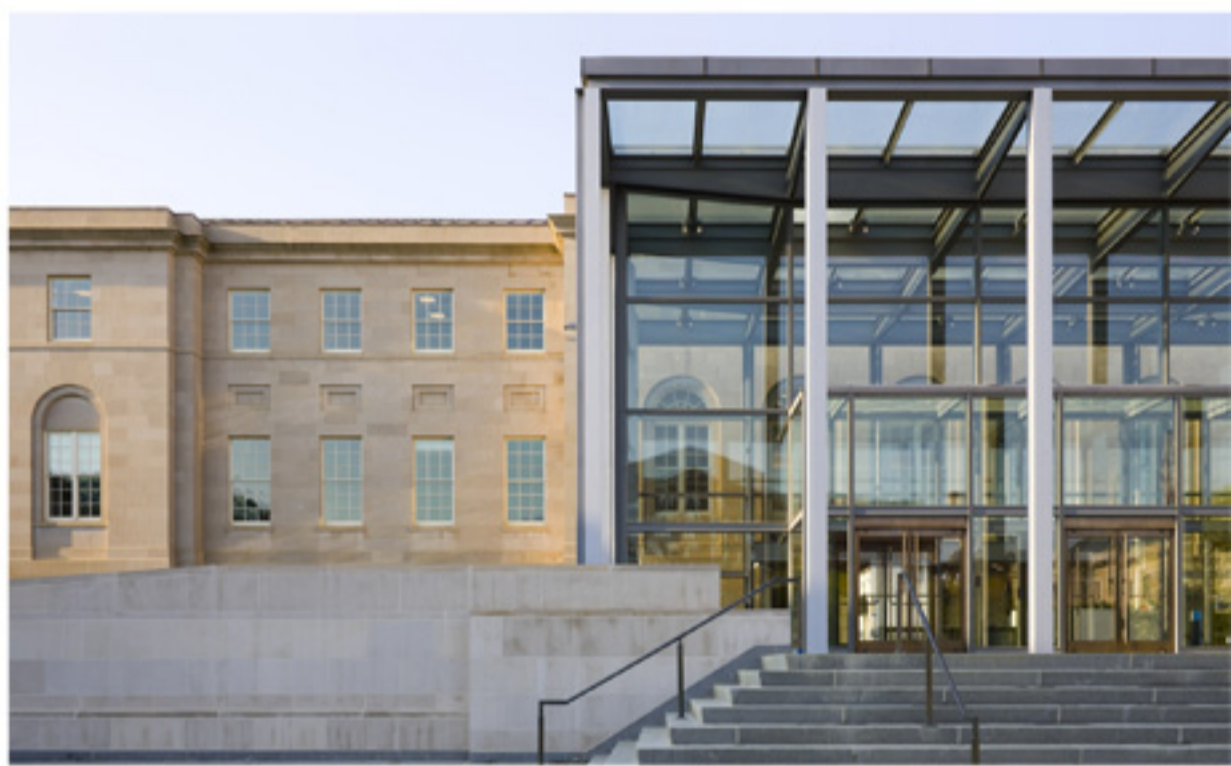
Throughout the building, historic elements were restored as much as possible, including marble and terrazzo flooring, marble







wainscot, historic decorative plaster ceilings that had been hidden beneath drop ceilings, textured glass lay lights and transoms, bronze and copper light fixtures and mahogany doors. Three of the historic courtrooms were restored – two of which are to be reused as appeals courts and the third as a library. New finishes were incorporated to complement the historic details; and a new lay light, designed as a reinterpretation of the historic lay lights, was installed at the top of the new grand stair. The historic exterior underwent a complete restoration; the limestone and granite façades were patched, cleaned, repaired and re-pointed, decorative iron railings were restored and replicated, and the existing copper standing seam roof was replaced.



#### PROJECT TEAM

**District of Columbia Courts**

**Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners LLP**

Applied Fire Protection Engineering Inc., Charron Consulting,

Convergent Technologies, Domingo Gonzalez Associates,

Door Security Solutions Chesapeake, Froehling & Robertson, Inc.,

Gruzen Samton LLP, Heller & Metzger, P.C., Hensel Phelps Construction Co.,

Robert Silman Associates P.C., Joseph R. Loring & Associates, Inc.,

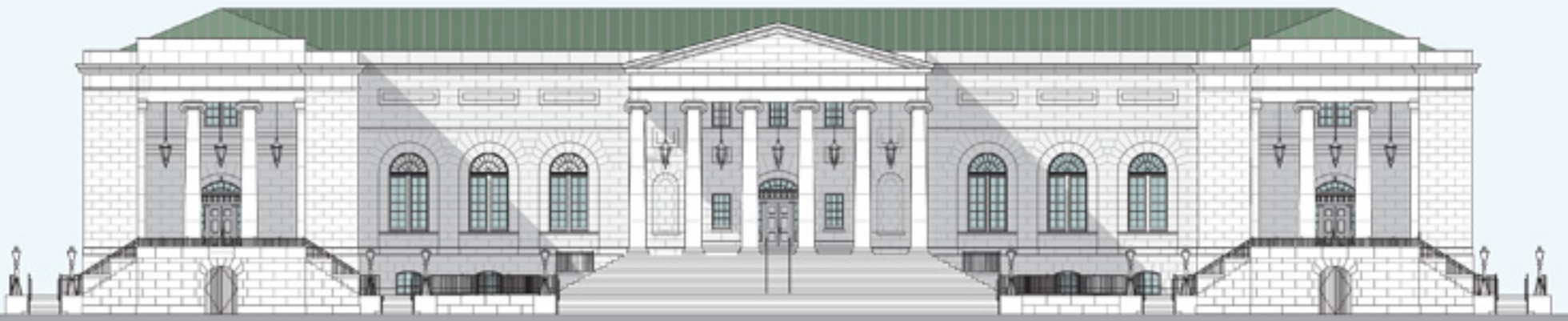
Rhodeside & Harwell, Inc., Robinson & Associates, Inc.,

Wiles Mensch Corporation, Williams Hunt & Associates, US Cost, Inc.

Photographs by Joseph Berman Photography, Historic Photographs Courtesy of the Library of Congress and Robinson & Associates, Inc., Construction and Existing Conditions Photographs by Beyer Blinder Belle and Joseph Berman Photography, Drawings by Beyer Blinder Belle, Graphic Design by RBB|graphix a Division of Beyer Blinder Belle and Graphic Fabrication Courtesy of ABC Imaging







# ANALYTICAL DIAGRAMS

