

# Minnesota State Capitol Restoration Project

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Architectural Integrity.  
Building Functionality. Life Safety.



[mn.gov/capitol-restoration](http://mn.gov/capitol-restoration)



Minnesota Capitol Restoration



[flickr.com/photos/capitol-restoration](https://www.flickr.com/photos/capitol-restoration)



@ADMN\_Minnesota



# A Brief History



- Completed in 1905
- Cass Gilbert, Architect
- Third Minnesota Capitol
- 9 years to build
- Cost: \$4.5 million
- Estimated replacement cost: \$518 million
- National Register of Historic Places since 1972
- \$310 Million to Restore

# A Capitol Timeline



1896: Construction begins

1905: Capitol opens

2011: Capitol Preservation Commission

2013: Restoration begins

Fall 2017: Restoration complete

# Who Uses the Capitol?



- Governor
- Attorney General
- Legislative Branch
  - 349 Legislators and staff during Session
  - Hundreds of citizens participating in legislative process
- Supreme Court
- Broadcast and print media
- Public events
- 370 Events with 52,392 Attendees
- Historical Society Tours
  - 120,000 Visitors
  - 60,000 Students
  - 1,300 Tours
  - 38,000 Info desk questions

# Minnesota's Public Forum



The Minnesota State Capitol is the forum for citizens and elected leaders to debate the issues of the day and plan for tomorrow. It is the symbolic “Peoples’ House.”



Farmers Holiday Association Relief March - 1933



**Anti-war march on the State Capitol - 1970**







## National Political Convention Protests - 2008



## Marriage Equality Rally – 2013



# The Need for Restoration

# A Tipping Point

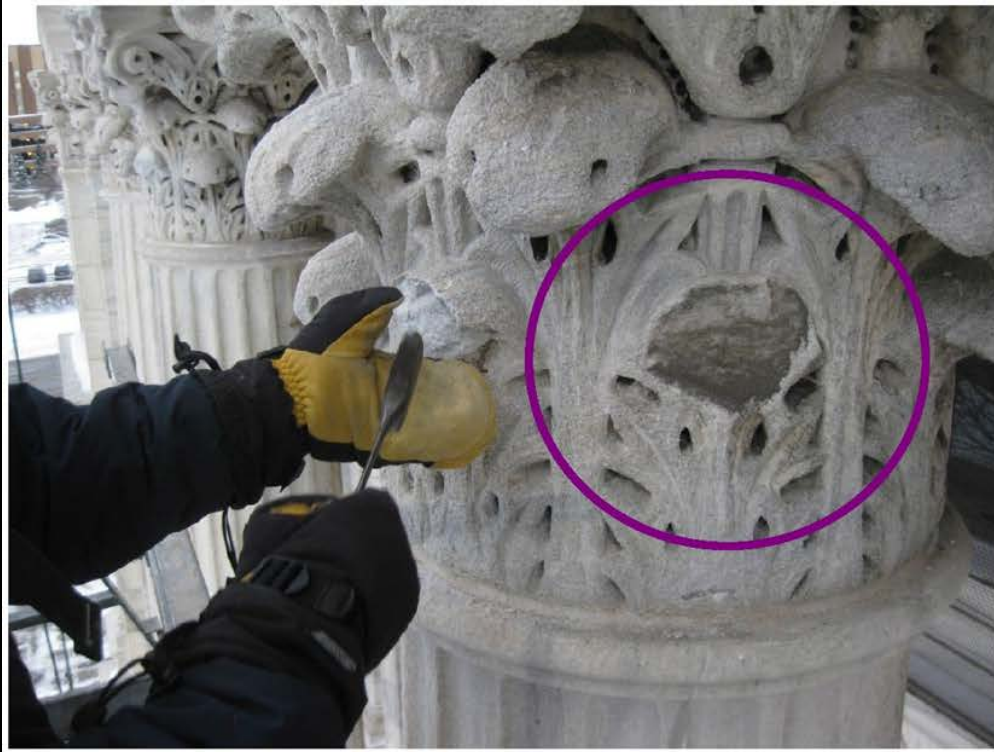
- Crumbling exterior
- Life safety concerns
- Outdated infrastructure:
  - HVAC
  - Electrical
  - Plumbing
- Not user-friendly to the public.



# Interior Deterioration



# Marble was crumbling like ... sugar



# Exterior Deterioration



- Exterior stone was rapidly deteriorating
- The roof was also in poor shape and leaking



Priceless art was  
damaged





**Crowded hallways and hearing rooms made public involvement difficult**



# Approval and Funding of the Restoration

# Moving the process forward: State Capitol Preservation Commission

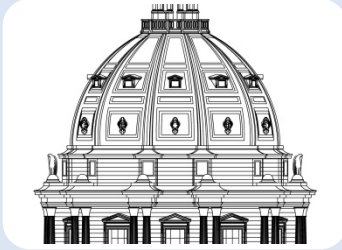
*Creating a process to move forward*

*Key criteria:*

- Detailed history of need
- Stakeholders had to be involved early
- Stakeholders had to be project owners
  - Could not be a “department project”
- Authority to take actions
- Ability to continue despite electoral changes
- Created constituency for the Capitol

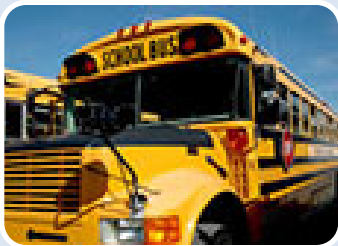


# Guiding Principles for Restoration



## Architectural Integrity

- Preserve essential design elements.
- Be true to Cass Gilbert's 1905 vision.



## Life Safety

- Accessible to all Minnesotans and visitors.
- Updated safety codes.
- Secure infrastructure.



## Building Functionality

- Serve government functions for the next 100 years.

*These principles guide all work and decision making.*



# Phases of Project Work



Phases	Date Began
Basement abatement, demolition, and construction	September 2013
Preparation and construction of mechanicals, electrical systems, and plumbing	February 2014
Closure of Capitol: Ground and 1 <sup>st</sup> Floors of West Wing and Entire East Wing	June 2014
Close and repair 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floors of the West Wing and entire North Wing	June 2015

# Life Safety Improvements

	Life Safety	
Current	Item	Planned
0 %	Safe Fresh Air Intakes	100 %
40 %	Area of Building Protected by Fire Sprinklers	90 %
0 %	Area of Building Served by Exhaust Ventilation	65 %
0 %	Area of Building Served by New Plumbing	100 %
0	Enclosed Exit Stairs	1
0	Exit Stairs with Direct Access to Exterior	5

# Fire protection





# Emergency exits and stairwells





# Building Functionality

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- Increased seating/accessibility features in hearing rooms
- Public meeting rooms
- Additional restrooms
- Visitor Center
- Classroom
- Expanded dining options

# Restored hearing rooms have more public space



# Future Cass Gilbert Room



Before



After

# New small conference room



# New public meeting room



Before



After



Architectural Integrity

# Rediscovered Treasures!



# Uncovered skylight in Supreme Court Courtroom





**Future public space in basement under Rotunda.**



**Historic mosaic tile  
uncovered and  
restored**



# Restored architectural elements





# Exterior Marble Work



## Marble repair and restoration



# Marble repair and restoration



## Marble repair and restoration

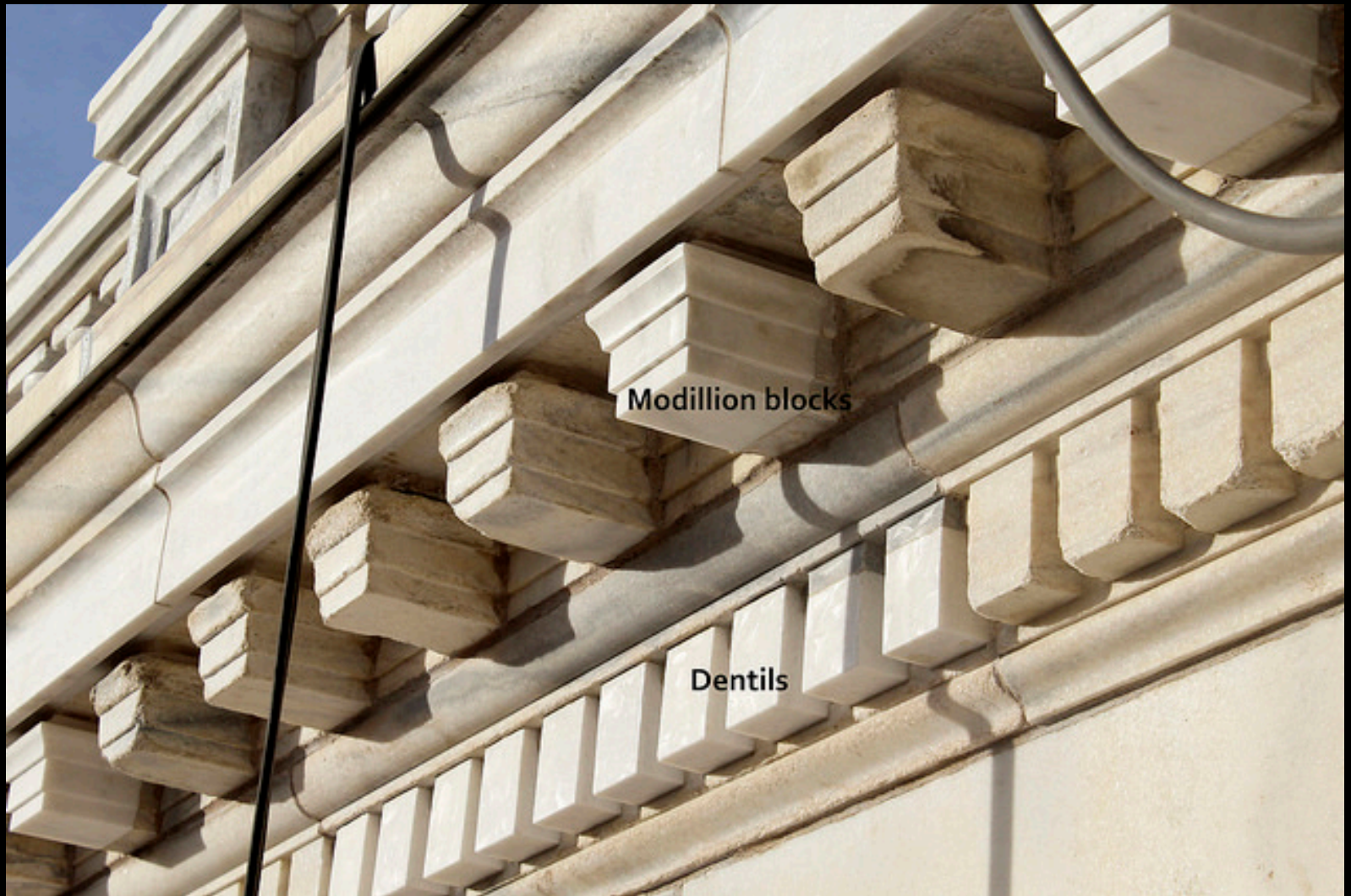


**Restored column with new and old marble**





**Restored  
decorative  
marble  
carvings**



## Blending in new marble



**Before and after: Restored detail work**



# Roof and Dome Repair



## Roof replacement



## Roof restoration: Demolition



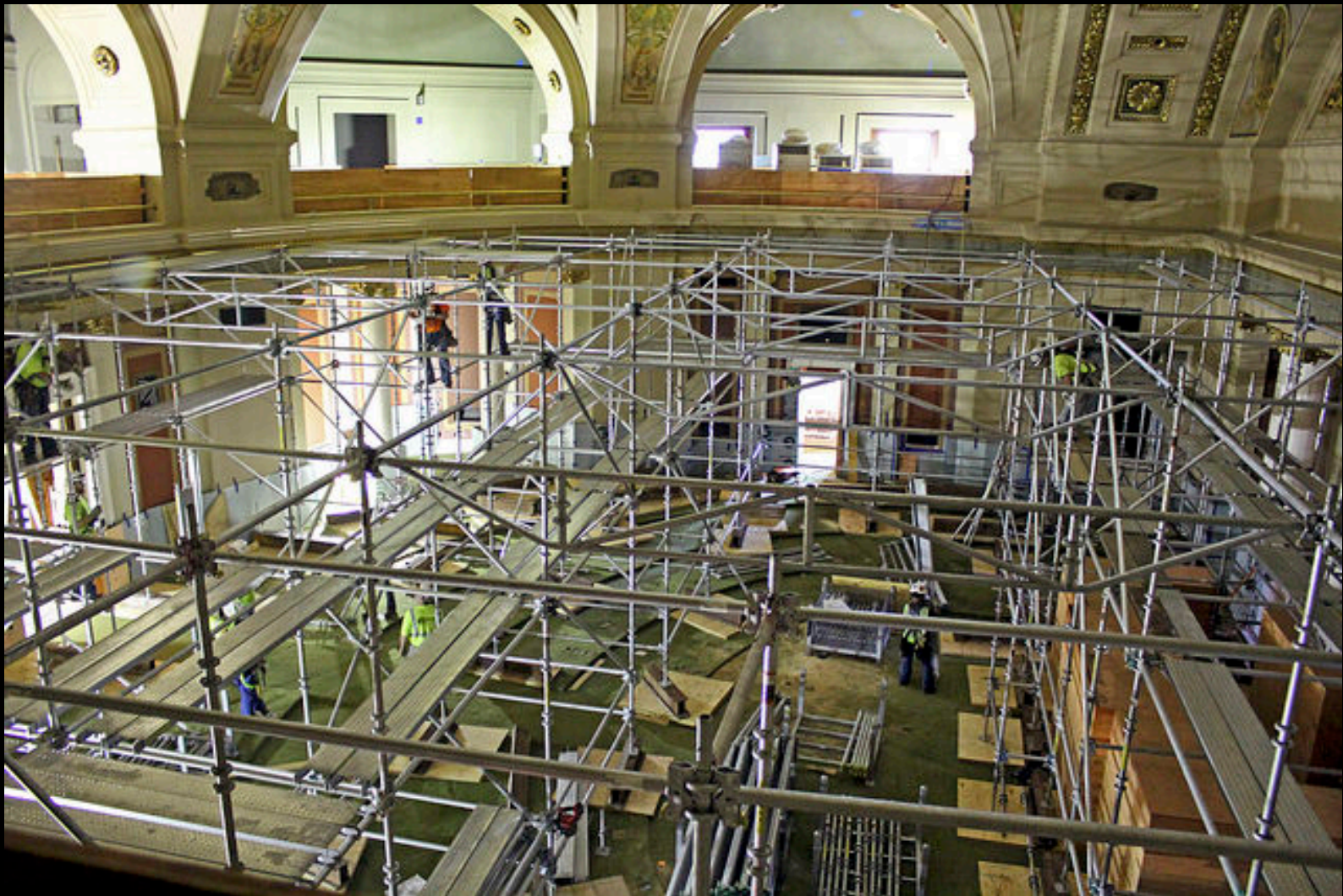
## Roof restoration: New pavers



Restoration and Repair

# House and Senate Chambers





## House Chamber



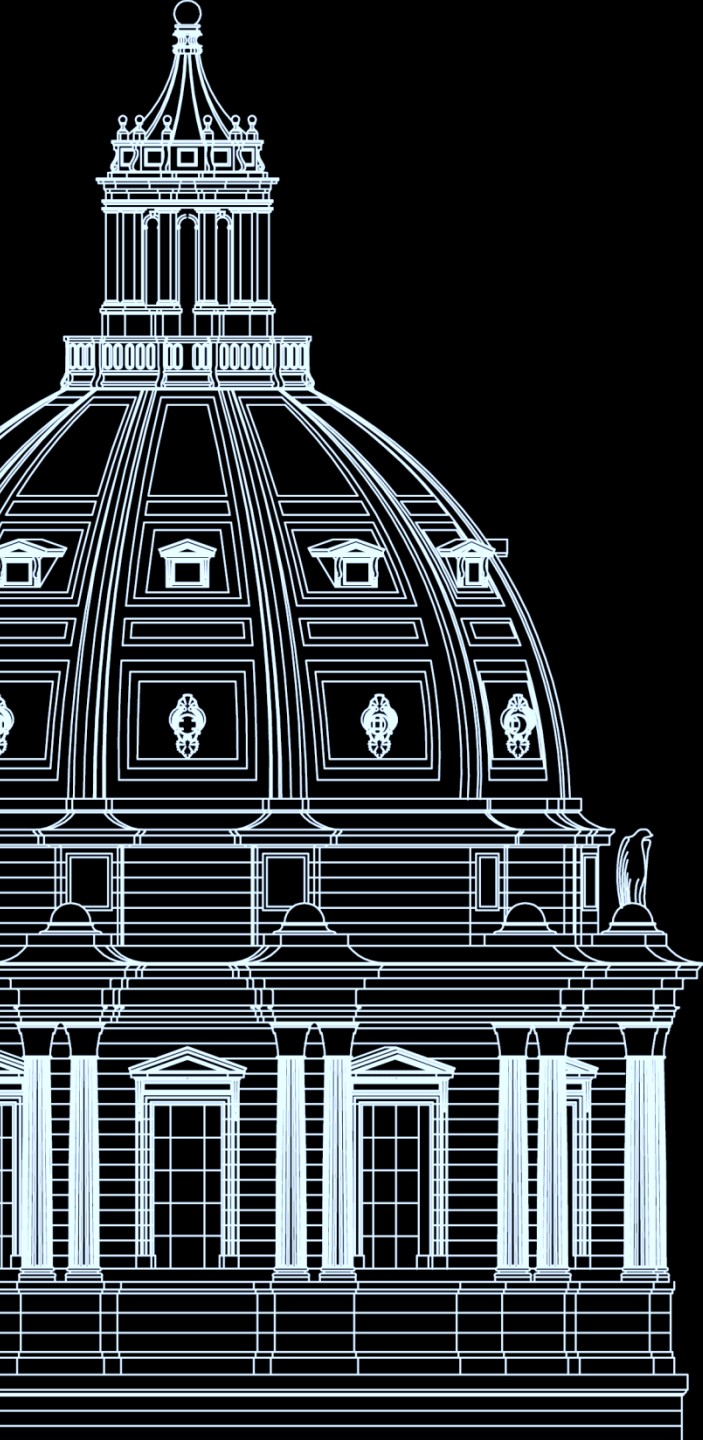
# House Chamber



# House Chamber



## Senate Chamber



Restoration and Repair

# Stained Glass



## Historic skylight restoration





## Historic skylight restoration

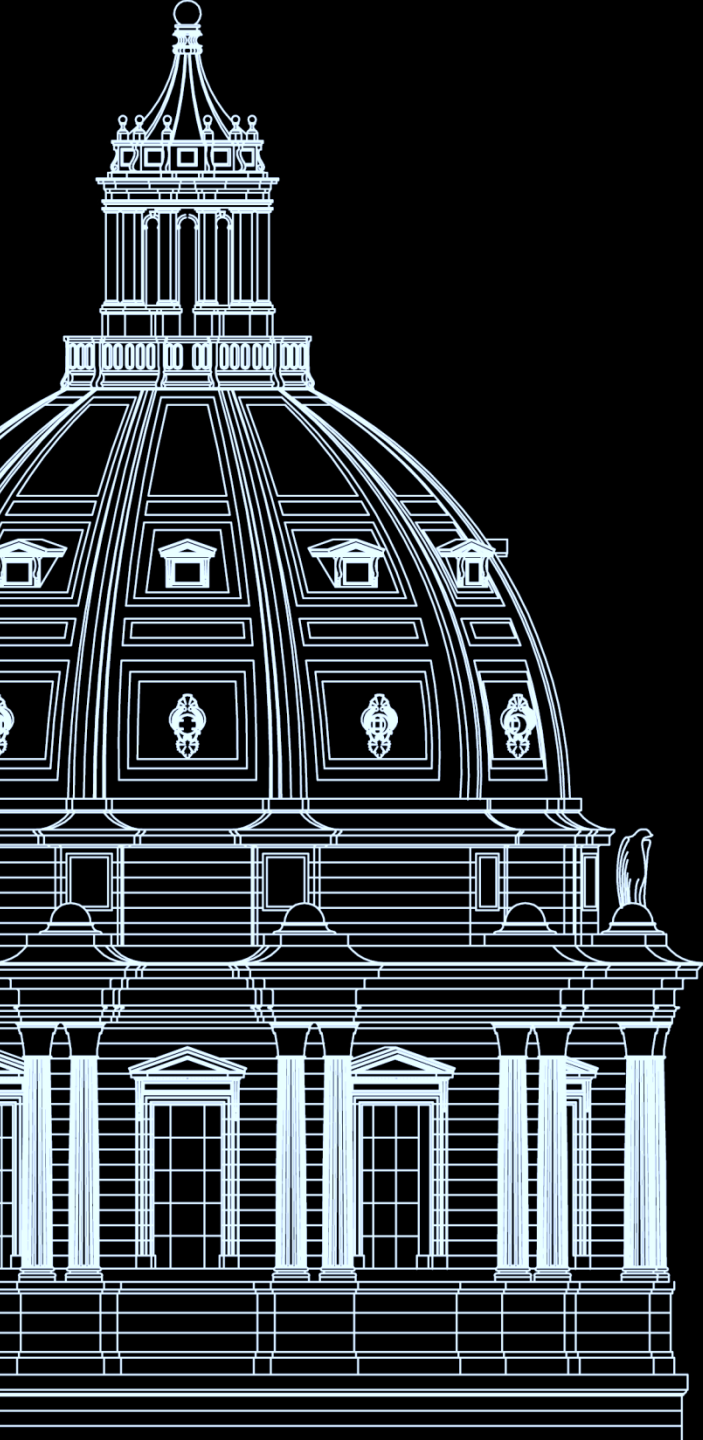


## Historic skylight restoration





## West Grand Staircase



Restoration and Repair

# Rotunda



## Rotunda:

- Water damage repair
- Ventilation/Mechanicals
- Fine art restoration



# Rotunda Chandelier



# Tight Quarters



# Rotunda Art Restoration



**Painting and regilding at the top of the Rotunda**



**Before  
and After:  
Art Restoration**





Restoration and Repair

# Plaza Stairs and Grounds



## South Steps and Plaza



# Aurora Avenue



Restoration and Repair

# Decorative Art



## Decorative art restoration



## Decorative art restoration



## Decorative art restoration



## Decorative art restoration





# Restoration and Repair

# Fine Art



## Supreme Court mural restorations



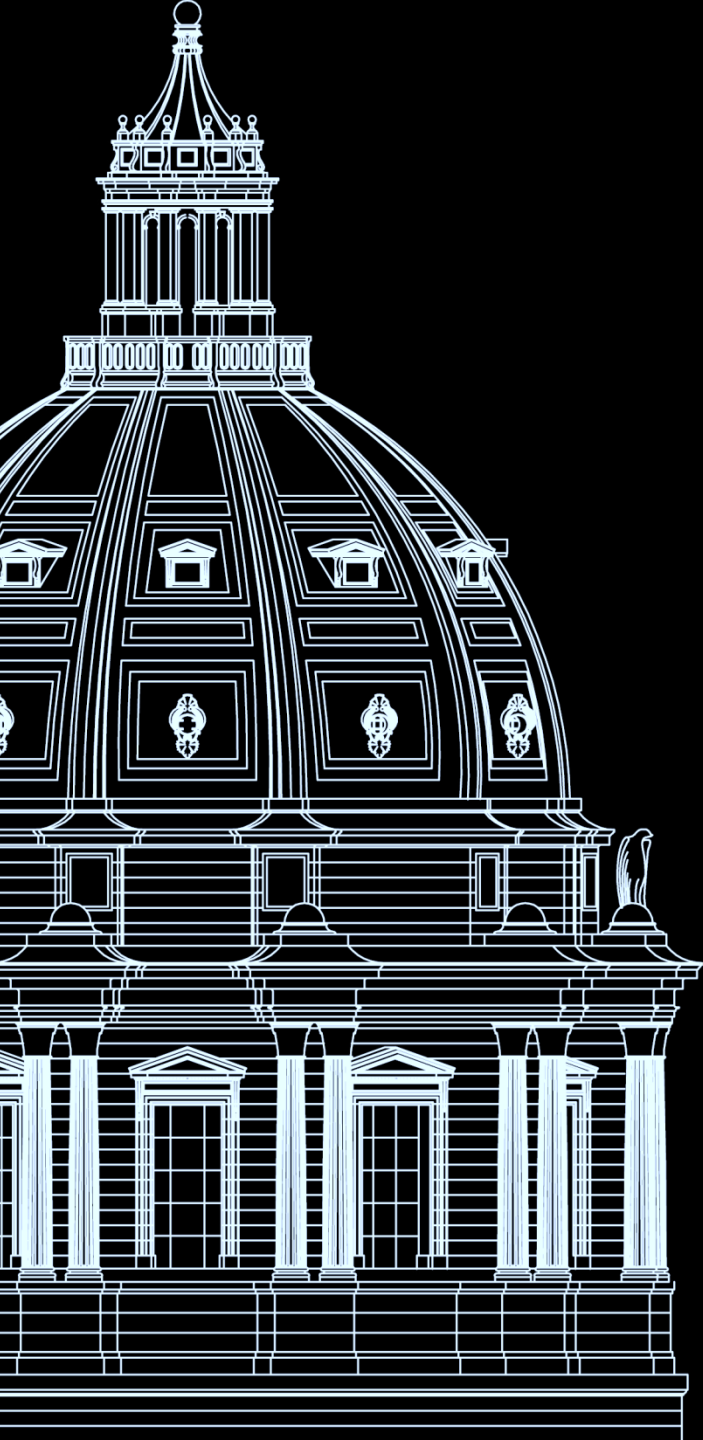
## Senate Chamber mural restorations



## East Grand Stairs restoration



**Supreme Court Chamber:  
"The Moral and Divine Law" (1905) Chamber**



# Fall 2017

## Grand Opening Celebration!

# You're invited to the Grand Opening Celebration! Fall 2017

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- Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime experience
- Free
- Activities for all ages and interests
- Rediscover your Capitol

