

# Supreme Court of the United States

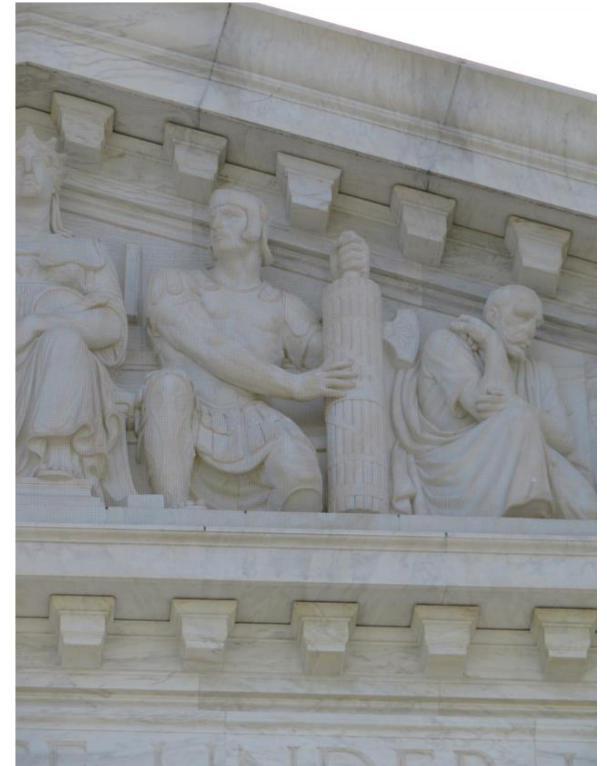
July 24, 2017

The Supreme Court building conveys the majesty of the law and its centrality to American life. Outstanding use of signage and exhibits lead people who visit into a deepened discovery of these themes.





The dignified and majestic entrance to the Supreme Court evokes great respect for the work being done within.



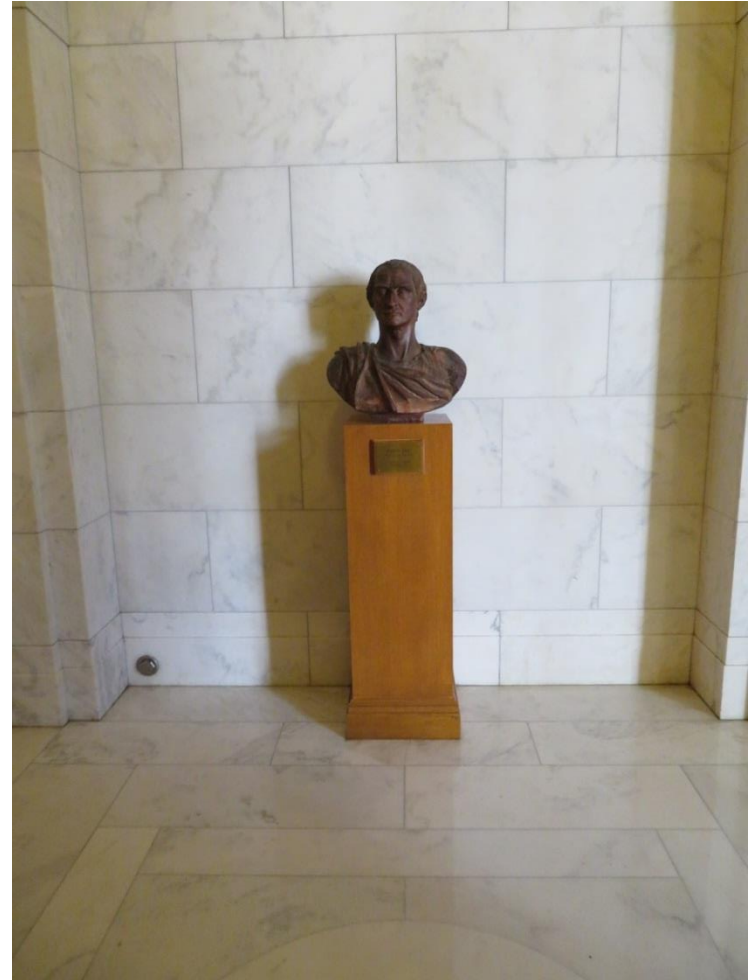
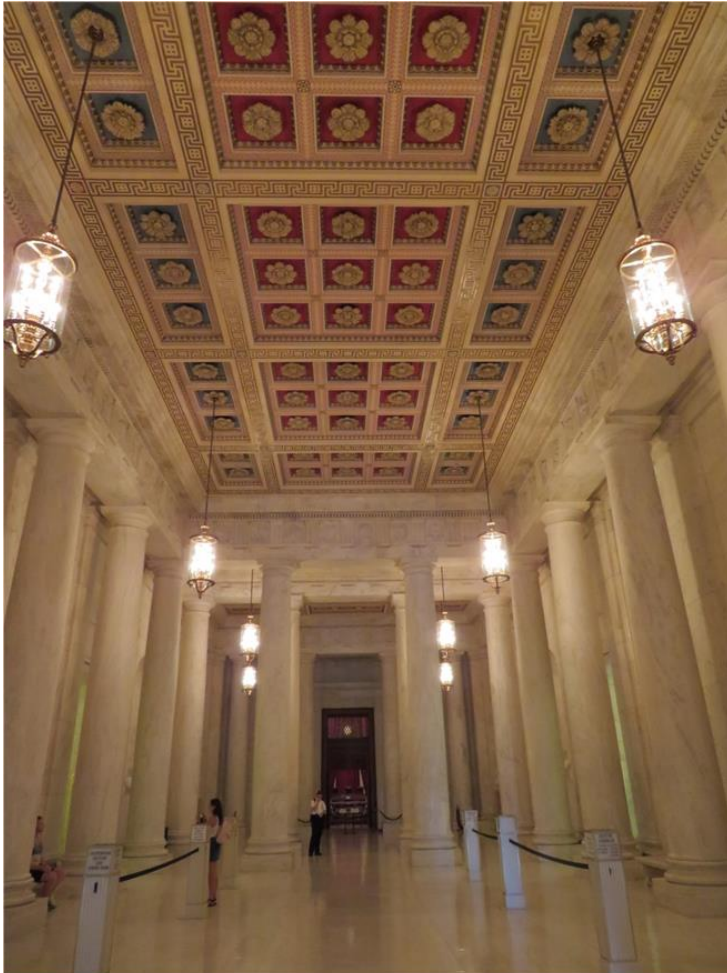
Statues use symbolism to convey the guiding principles of the court including its power as a co-equal, independent branch of government. Themes include the contemplation of justice and the guardian of Law.



Previous ADA issues have been addressed by clearly marked signage and ramps adjacent to stairways.



Beautiful signage sets the tone and expectations of visitors as they enter. Directional signage is clear, concise and takes up a very small footprint.



The halls leading to the Chambers are lined with waiting areas to efficiently mobilize the attendees to the court.





Multi-purpose posts cordon off lines to enter the courtroom and deliver important information to visitors about opportunities in the building.

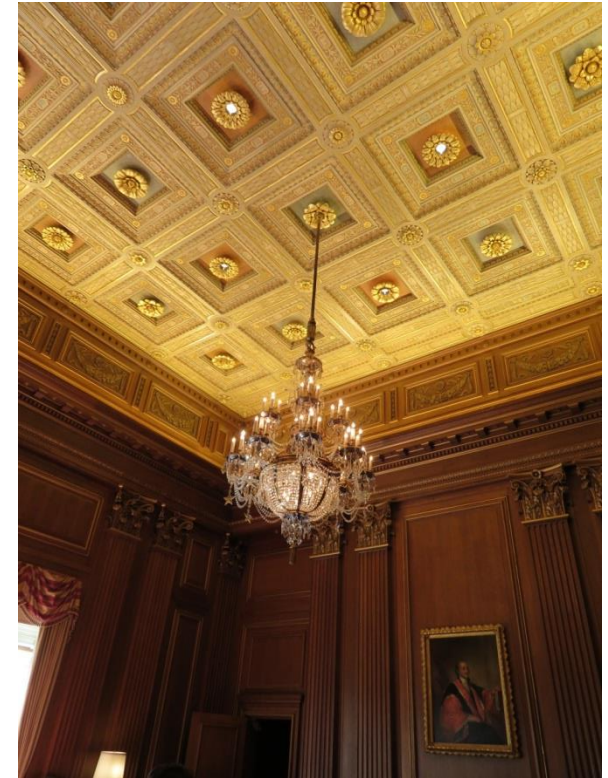


The Court Chambers

CAPITOL  
ANNEX  
PROJECT







Flexible rooms conveying the dignity of the court are available for receptions and press events.



Cornucopias line the room as a symbol of abundance and nourishment.



The museum quality visitors center is accessible to learners of all ages and interests.











"PLANS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED IN THE PAST ... BUT THE CONSERVATISM OF SOME OF THE MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY THE CHIEF JUSTICES, HAS INTERFERED WITH THE SUCCESSFUL PASSING OF THE BILL. [NOW] A MAJORITY OF THE COURT IS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEPARATE BUILDING...."

CHIEF JUSTICE TAFT BY HENRY REED SMITH, JULY 1921

## PLANS BECOME REALITY

In 1921, former President William Howard Taft became Chief Justice of the United States. Long interested in the development of the City of Washington, Taft learned of pending legislation in Congress to provide funds for the construction of new federal buildings. He successfully lobbied to have a building for the Supreme Court included among the proposed sites. To show the Court's support for the project, Taft May 16, 1928, and urged that the Justices had voted 5-4 in consultation with Justice Willis Van Devanter, cabinetated Commission to oversee the project. Following the approval of the preliminary plans and estimates, Congress authorized \$5,740,000, on December 28, 1929, for construction.





CAPITOL  
ANNEX  
PROJECT



"CONGRESS HAS AT LAST PROVIDED  
AND THE GENIUS OF A GREAT ARCHITECT HAS PLANNED  
A PERMANENT HOME FOR THE COURT  
THAT IN BEAUTY AND IN DIGNITY IS FULLY WORTHY  
OF THE INSTITUTION IT IS DESIGNED TO HOUSE AND WORTHY,  
TOO, OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMPANY IT KEEPS."

JOHN W. DAVIS  
AT THE CONSECRATION CEREMONY, OCTOBER, 1932

## DESIGNING *the* COURTHOUSE

Cass Gilbert's design for the Supreme Court Building centers on a classically inspired Greco-Roman temple. A grand staircase, flanked by allegorical statues, leads to a Corinthian portico with a triangular pediment. The prominence of the ceremonial temple over the administrative wings signifies their relative importance to the functions of the Court. Gilbert's use of white marble and classical architectural elements links his design to a long line of buildings dating from antiquity to those on Capitol Hill. In this way, he shows that the building, like the law it serves, is built upon precedent. Using a Beaux-Arts approach, Gilbert drew from these sources for inspiration to create a powerful, symbolic home for the Supreme Court of the United States.



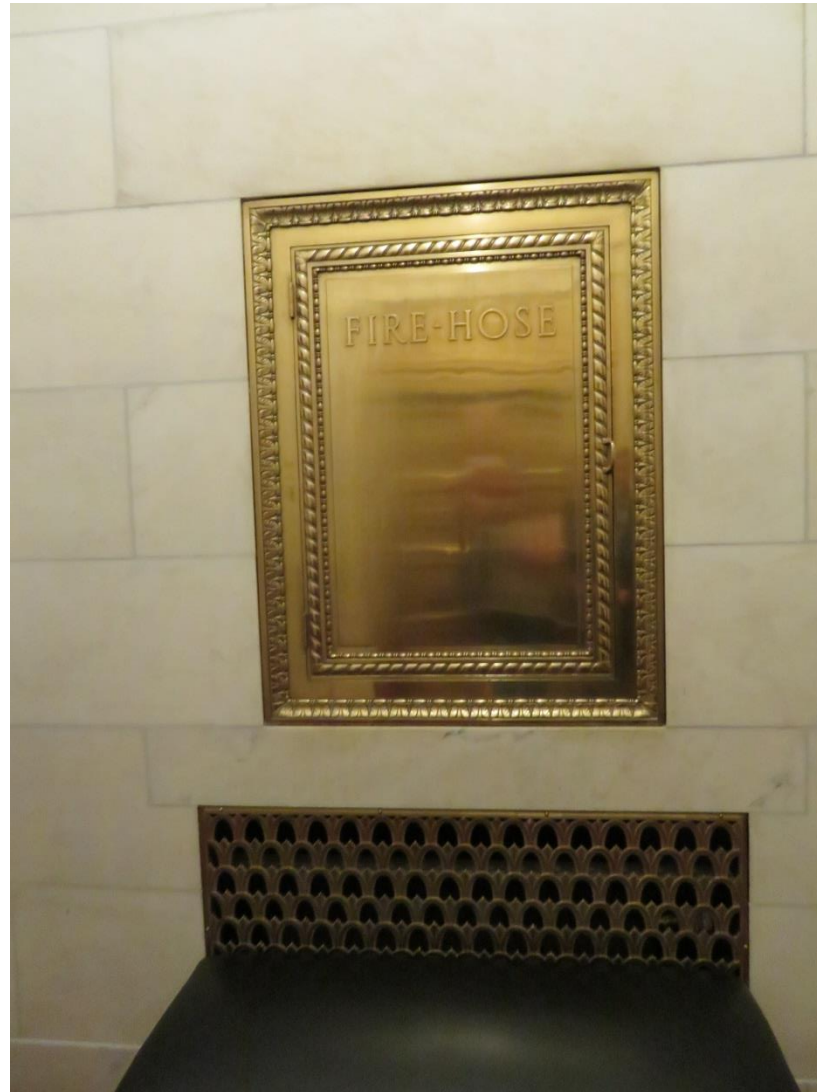
A variety of dynamic and elegant signage is utilized throughout the building to guide visitors to facilities designed with them in mind.



Incredibly ornate walls and finishes alongside emergency response signage.







Details have not been overlooked.



View of the US Capitol from the steps of the Court.



Elegant signage outside the building clearly directs visitors to the main entrance for efficient entry.



Large entry to the Supreme Court.



Security posts/barriers protect the vulnerable side of the building.