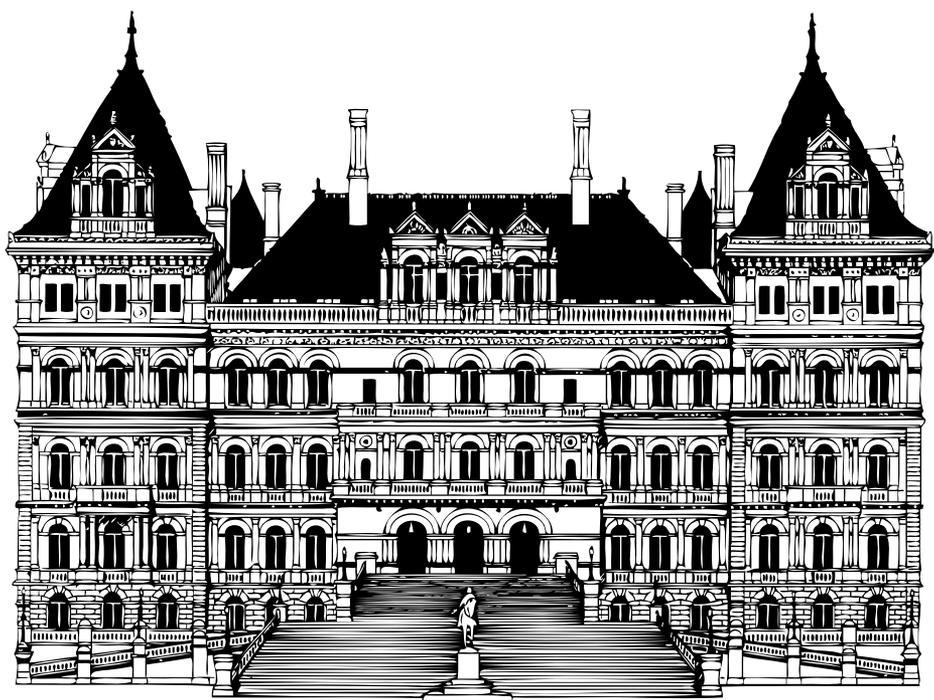




Restoring a Landmark
THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
State of New York



Restoring a Landmark THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

Welcome

In May 2011, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced a revised and expedited timetable for completing the New York State Capitol restoration. Under the revised schedule, the fourth and final phase of a multi-year restoration project that began in 2000 accelerated



the completion of the project two years ahead of schedule with a savings of \$2.3 million. The new project plan called for doubling the workforce, increasing roof access for workers, allowing trades to work simultaneously, and streamlining technical review. As a result, the Capitol reclaimed its lost architectural grandeur while now better accommodating the modern needs of New York State government. With a focus on safety, pride of work, and reverence to history, the New York State Capitol is a National Landmark poised to last for generations to come.



Restoring a Landmark THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

Reaching New Heights - Up on the Roof



While work progressed on the Capitol's grand interior spaces, over a hundred workers labored above to repair and rehabilitate the building's roof. The project focused on the eastern half of the roof, including northeast and southeast French Renaissance-style pavilion towers. The terra cotta surfacing on each of the towers was over 120 years old and badly deteriorated due to weathering and damage from earlier repairs. Not able to salvage any of the materials, each of the old terra cotta tiles were removed and new tiles and additional custom terra cotta pieces were replicated based on their original design.



A before and after view of the decorative terra cotta entwined circular motif that embellishes the east facade ridge fence.



Restoring a Landmark THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

Tower Finials

Literally capping the work on the roof was the installation of an elaborate finial at the top of each pavilion tower. The design and installation of the finials was no easy task. Each finial is constructed from 105 separate terra cotta pieces, consisting of 17 courses, or rows, and measuring 28 feet high. Additionally, the Capitol's lightening arrestors - braided steel cables grounded to the steel structure of the roof - terminate at the top of each finial.



Restoring a Landmark THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

Assembly Staircase Skylight and Laylight Restoration



The 2011 restoration of the Assembly Staircase was a central part of the Capitol roof rehabilitation project. All elements of the 1940s renovations were removed, the skylight was reinstalled, the laylight reconstructed, and the staircase's upper walls and masonry repaired and repainted with precise, historic detail.



Restoring a Landmark THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

Senate Staircase Skylight and Laylight Restoration



In 1946, a need to create additional office space led to major alterations of the staircase's original design. The skylight was replaced with a plywood and copper roofing, the laylight was removed, and a new floor was inserted across the staircase at the fifth floor level, truncating the height of the staircase.

During the Senate Staircase restoration, all elements of the 1940s renovations were removed, the skylight and laylight reconstructed, and damage to the staircase's upper masonry was repaired. In January 2013, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo unveiled the Senate Staircase to the public, revealing a space returned to its monumental design. The completion of the Senate Staircase marks the end of the overall Capitol roof restoration project.



Restoring a Landmark THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

Senate Staircase Skylight and Laylight Restoration



The laylight crowning the top of the Senate Staircase is designed to diffuse the direct natural light streaming in from the skylight above. The original steel trusses supporting the skylight were left intact and used for the restoration; however, because the laylight structure was removed altogether, its design proved more

difficult to reconstruct. Using evidence left behind from the removal of the laylight in the 1940s, architects were able to determine the exact measurements of the laylight's grid framing. Unfortunately, there are no known images of the original laylight and few clues were found regarding the color and patterning of the glass itself. Unable to produce an exact replication of the laylight, the architects designed the new laylight to be a contemporary interpretation deferential to the significant historic quality of the staircase.

Restoring a Landmark THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

The Hall of Governors

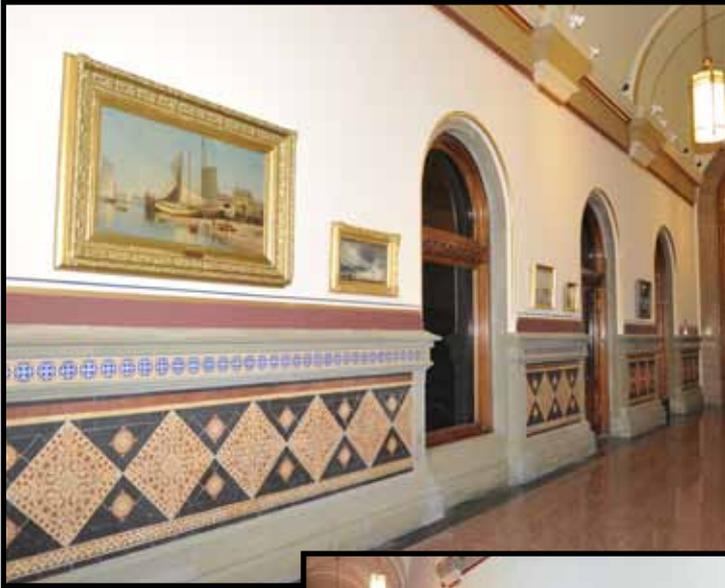


The Hall of Governors' dramatic renovation included cleaning the stonework, and repairing, replastering, and repainting the walls. In addition, a state-of-the-art lighting system was installed to draw focus on the state's collection of historic portraits of New York State governors.



Restoring a Landmark THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

The Hall of New York



In 2013, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo unveiled the Hall of New York – an exhibit of more than 50 paintings in honor of New York State’s rich heritage. The paintings were generously loaned from museums throughout New York State and reflect every region of the state. In preparation of the opening of the Hall of New York, walls were plastered and painted, and a new lighting system was installed.



Restoring a Landmark THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

Cleaning House



A walk in and around the New York State Capitol today is a much brighter experience thanks to the personal interest Governor Andrew M. Cuomo took in sprucing up the building's interior. In the fall of 2012, an intensive effort was launched to examine every surface of the Capitol and identify and implement a series of cleaning projects. Work crews labored to remove multiple layers of wax that had

built up on the marble and granite floors and baseboards over the last 40 years. They cleaned masonry and intricate stone carvings that were stained with decades-worth of emissions from coal furnaces once used to heat the Capitol, and cigarette and cigar smoke. Even brass railings and kick plates sparkle after a half-century of neglect. No detail too small, evidence of the Capitol's renaissance can be seen throughout the building.



Restoring a Landmark THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

Cleaning House



The cleaning of the elaborately carved granite and sandstone arches and columns, and other decorative stonework, was a significant undertaking. A specially trained team of employees from the Office of General Services used a latex cleaning product that was applied to the stone. As the latex dried, it captured dirt from crevices in the stone and was then peeled off as an elastic film, removing the dirt with it.



