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**M**ichigan's new Hall of Justice is making a monumental architectural statement within Lansing's State Capitol Complex, debuting after more than three decades of planning.

The structure features an elaborate, bowl-shaped plaza on its east side, covered with concrete pavers and surrounded on three sides with two colonnades that extend more than 110 ft. from the building. A dome shaped skylight, consisting of more than 80 panels of insulated glass sits atop the building, making an architectural connection with the nearby state capital building. The structure is clad with granite accented, Indiana Buff limestone panels, furthering the architectural compatibility of the new justice hall and the 1879 capital building. Almost 14,000 limestone pieces, each individually designed and engineered, were used in the completed project.

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## HALL OF JUSTICE

Lansing, MI



**OWNER:** State of Michigan  
Department of Management and Budget

**ARCHITECTS:** Albert Kahn Associates - Detroit, MI  
Spillis Candela & Partners - Coral Gables, FL

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** The Christman Company  
Lansing, MI

**MASON CONTRACTOR:** Schiffer Mason Contractors, Inc.  
Holt, MI

**LOCAL UNION:** International Union of Bricklayers and  
Allied Craftworkers, Local #9 Michigan

**AREA:** 280,000 sq. ft.

**LEVELS:** Six levels above ground  
Two parking levels below ground

**PROJECT COST:** \$67 Million

**CONSTRUCTION TIME:** April, 2000 to October, 2002

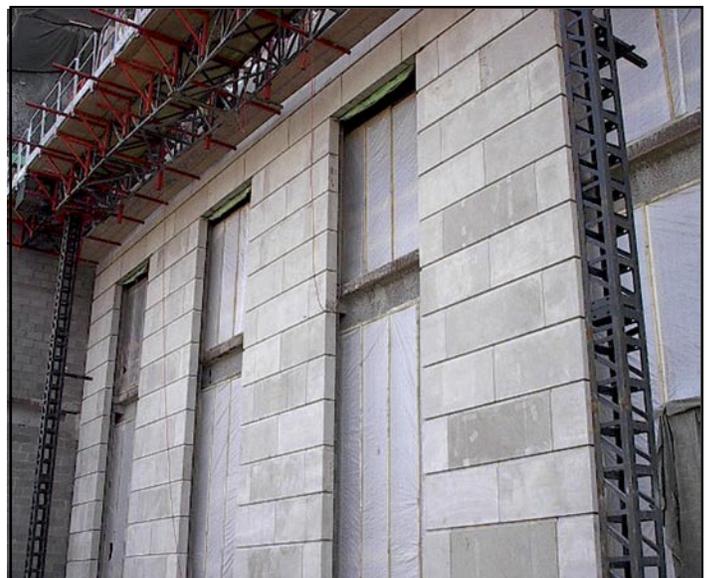
Successful completion of Michigan's newest landmark would not have been possible without the close teamwork of the contractors involved.

Because the project was bid with just 80% of the drawings completed, the design had to be finalized before construction could begin. This required considerable cooperation and coordination among team members from the beginning. The project's steel contractor, Douglas Steel Fabricating Corp., required Schiffer Mason Contractors to start the decorative limestone shop drawing process several months ahead of time to identify the areas of stone erection that required special considerations within the building's structural frame. Each of the 14,000 limestone panels required intermediate structural steel framing for support, and each frame had to be analyzed and engineered in close cooperation with the limestone supplier.

The project's timeline posed an additional challenge. A system of 274 caissons, varying from 3 ft. to 6.5 ft. in diameter and extending 66 ft. to bedrock had to first be constructed to support the building, and a parking structure on the east side of the site also had to be established. Once these projects were in place, over 2,900 tons of structural steel would be erected to frame the curved lines of the building and support its limestone panels. An aggressive, 26-month schedule meant all



*Each of the 14,000 limestone panels required intermediate structural steel framing for support.*



contractors had to adhere to demanding and tightly-timed construction sequences if they were to bring the project in on time. In all, nearly 300 truck loads of limestone and granite were conveyed to the project. Each delivery had to be carefully planned and organized to prevent any disruptions to other construction activities.

For Schiffer Mason Contractors, the aggressive schedule also generated an opportunity for innovation. Approximately 1,000 limestone panels needed to be installed on the rotunda of the building, but two underground, reinforced concrete parking garages being built adjacent to the structure's east and west elevations prevented the placement of the large crane necessary for hoisting the stone. Project personnel envisioned using two small cranes which could be stationed on the building's roof. An internet search identified an Ohio firm, Ruger Equipment, that assisted in designing and engineering two "mini-cranes." The cranes, each capable of lifting a 3,000 pound stone some 30 ft. high., were placed on the roof, allowing construction on the underground parking garages to continue unimpeded. The mini-cranes were so versatile, Schiffer personnel were able to complete installation of the rotunda stone well ahead of schedule.

*[continued]*



The close teamwork and creative innovation required to complete construction of Michigan's Hall of Justice make it a true, project management achievement. Construction manager, The Christman Company, also credits the project's success to the involvement of both the owner and the end-user.

"Active participation by the Michigan Department of Management & Budget, as well as the Michigan Judiciary, was essential. They were involved as members of the project team on a daily basis."

At its recent dedication, state and local leaders hailed the new building as the "crown jewel" in downtown Lansing's redevelopment, and a monument that would last hundreds of years. The Hall of Justice provides a new home for the state Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, as well as office space for the State Court Administrative Office, Michigan Judicial Institute, Supreme Court Commissioners and Michigan Board of Law Examiners. The main floor of the hall also includes a 3,800 sq. ft. interactive learning center where visitors can learn about the history and operation of the court system and watch live broadcasts of oral arguments during Supreme Court sessions.



*Included among the construction materials for Michigan's Hall of Justice: 2,930 tons of structural steel, 12.75 million pounds of stone, 16,000 cubic yards of structural concrete, and over 20 miles of exterior limestone joint caulking.*

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