

Pasadena City Hall Renovation

Restoration
Winner



Project Team

Owner

City of Pasadena

General Contractor

Clark Construction Group, Costa Mesa

Architect

Architectural Resource Group,
Pasadena

Structural Engineer

Forell/Elsesser Engineers Inc., San
Francisco

Construction Manager

DMJM Management, Los Angeles

An \$80 million renovation has returned Pasadena City Hall to its former glory.

Built in 1927, Pasadena City Hall was showing signs of age inside. The building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, had a large number of deep cracks and two stair towers and the lantern in the building's dome were damaged. The building also had water damage and several architectural elements had to be improved

ceilings. Some exterior renovations were also done.

The seismic retrofit used a base isolation system – a construction technique that removed the original basement floor slab and required the excavation and installation of new foundations and the installation of 240 double concave friction pendulum isolators between the foundations and basement floor framing.

The base isolation system permits build-

work so they created a third access point to transport construction materials. Creating a third access point allowed the project team to shave months off the construction schedule.

Installing a new seismic system also meant the project team had to limit the intrusion of the seismic upgrade into the building's historic elements.

The project team also had to integrate new MEP and sprinkler systems into the building without affecting the building's historic elements. To accomplish this the team used a number of innovative techniques, including using a significant amount of coring through concrete and steel to run utility lines where needed.

The project began in spring of 2005 and was finished a little more than two years later. <<

Judges' Comments

“Had to preserve an existing, seismically unfit building.”

“State-of-the-art techniques used under the building.”

to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The building also needed a seismic upgrade.

The project team completely rehabilitated the interior of the building, installing new MEP and sprinkler systems and did major renovations to the building's plaster

ing movement during a major earthquake while minimizing damage. New shear walls were installed as part of the seismic retrofit as well as a “moat” to isolate the perimeter.

Working in the basement, the project team found they had limited access to