

City Hall

1 City Hall Park, New York



City Hall is one of New York's most beautiful and significant buildings, a National Historic Landmark and City Landmark. It was designed by John McComb and Joseph Francois Mangin, from 1803 to 1812, and has been in use ever since. The building houses the Mayor, City Council, and the Public Design Commission. An avalanche of plaster falling on Members' desks in the Council Chamber triggered this interior and exterior project, the first comprehensive rehabilitation in over fifty years.

Limestone facades were cleaned and repaired, and wood windows restored, while improvements to the roof and drainage systems will prevent chronic leaking that had caused much of the interior damage. The Council Chamber was brought back to its 1903 period of significance with the plaster ceiling reconstructed, mahogany wainscot restored, and central mural conserved. A new intervention was the state-of-the-art sound system. The rotunda dome was repaired after several decorative rosettes had fallen from the ceiling, and the stability of the elegant circular stair tested and improved. Public spaces were restored, and the basement retrofitted for offices that retain exposed brownstone bearing walls.

Critical upgrades, such as new fire detection and sprinkler systems, conduit and ductwork are cleverly concealed in the historic fabric. A more efficient HVAC system was placed in a newly-excavated subcellar. Going underground led to an archaeological dig that uncovered over 20,000 Revolutionary War-era artifacts. A British bayonet, wire eyeglass frames, and numerous coins and pottery shards were catalogued and conserved for future interpretation.

City of New York

**New York City
Department of Design and Construction**

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Kate Burns Ottavino

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Ron Eligator

Adams European Contracting

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