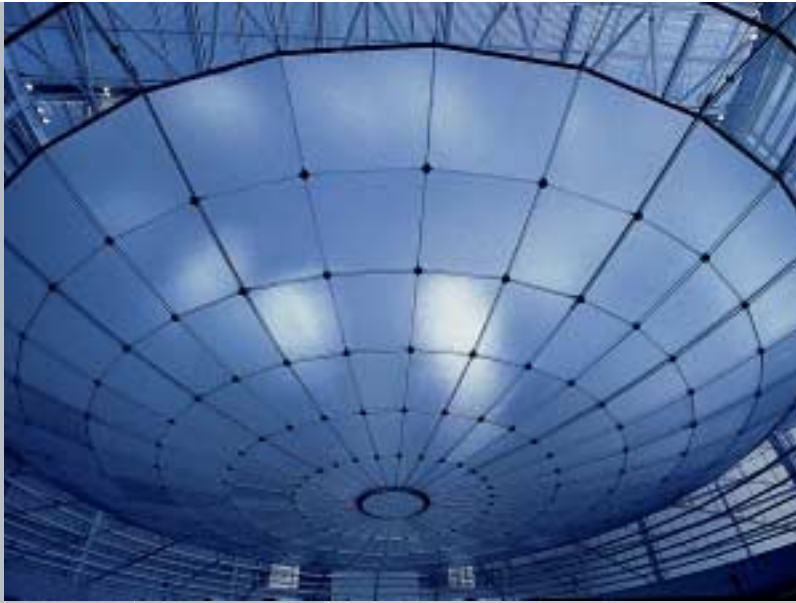


LENS CEILING



2000
SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR U.S. COURTHOUSE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

James Carpenter Design Associates (JCDA) is a collaborative studio combining the ideas and skills of artists, engineers, and fabricators. JCDA has developed unique designs incorporating glass, steel, and aluminum for a variety of commissions that include curtain walls, floors, roofing systems, bridges, and sculptures. The studio's work emphasizes the reflection and transmission of light, the physical forces of tension and compression, and human perception.



LENS CEILING

JAMES CARPENTER DESIGN ASSOCIATES

Skillfully integrating art with architecture, the inverted dome of *Lens Ceiling* hangs by cables above the special proceedings courtroom of the Sandra Day O'Connor United States Courthouse in Phoenix, Arizona. The cylindrical courtroom acts as a safeguard of civic rites within the building's soaring, glass-roofed atrium. The lens-shaped area of the ceiling diffuses artificial light, and the clear perimeter provides views of the sky from the courtroom floor. *Lens Ceiling* also resounds with historical and metaphorical meaning, recalling the Pantheon in Rome. Whereas the dome of that ancient temple faces skyward, like a colossal eye, *Lens Ceiling* focuses down upon the important civic proceedings that occur in the courtroom as a symbolic witness of justice.



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