

WILLIAM B. BRYANT

UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Washington, DC



The William B. Bryant United States Courthouse Annex in Washington, DC, was designed and constructed by the U.S. General Services Administration under the U.S. General Services Administration's Design Excellence Program, an initiative to create and preserve a legacy of outstanding public buildings that serve our citizens and are a source of pride for all Americans now and in the future.

Special thanks to Chief Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg and former Chief Judge Harry T. Edwards, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; Chief Judge Thomas F. Hogan, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia; Jill Sayenga, Circuit Executive; and D.C. Circuit Architect Sara Nomellini Delgado, for their commitment and dedication to a building of outstanding quality that is a tribute to the role of the judiciary in our democratic society and worthy of the American people.

October 2006

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We have created a contextual yet modern response to the prevailing classical architecture of Washington's federal core through the massing of the annex to the articulation of its façades.

Michael Graves
Architect





RESPECTING A CAPITAL LEGACY

Washington, DC, is unique among American cities in its juxtaposition of grand, radiating avenues and orthogonal streets. This urban design, conceived by French-born architect Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791, offers dramatic vistas of open spaces and civic architecture that are particularly apparent in the monumental core of the capital.

Upholding L'Enfant's vision for federal Washington was paramount in designing the new William B. Bryant Annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse. The 351,000 square-foot addition is sited to the east of the existing courthouse at the intersection of Constitution and Pennsylvania avenues and to the north of the National Gallery of Art's East Building and the National Mall. It is built on a 1.68-acre parcel adjacent to the District of Columbia's Municipal Center and close to Judiciary Square. Moreover, the annex occupies the last remaining open parcel on Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the White House.

The civic importance of this location led to a seven-story building that both respects

the L'Enfant plan and the modern 1950s-era Prettyman U.S. Courthouse in its siting and architecture. The new, linear structure extends the circulation and symmetrical organization of the older building to unify the entire complex. At the same time, the annex responds to its judicial purpose with dignified architecture of classical distinction. The main mass of the addition is divided into four, barrel-vaulted bays that mark the locations of the courtrooms and their complement of support functions.

From Constitution Avenue, the most visible portion of the annex is a circular pavilion, topped by a conical roof, that serves as a proudly democratic symbol of the courthouse. This "rotunda" houses a cafeteria on the ground floor and judicial chambers above, providing both visitors and staff with impressive views of surrounding landmarks. Visually, it relates the federal courthouse to the Capitol dome to the east and the rounded corner of the Federal Trade Commission building at the apex of the Federal Triangle to the west. The rotunda also establishes a stronger presence for the courthouse complex on Constitution Avenue by engaging the



street edge. It clearly defines the plaza in front of the existing building as a civic precinct by enclosing its eastern edge.

Opened in 1952, the original Prettyman U.S. Courthouse was designed by architect Louis Justement to accommodate both the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals, plus associated support offices, within an H-shaped plan. Twenty District courtrooms, including a ceremonial courtroom, and one Appellate courtroom are arranged in the middle of the building on both sides of a central public corridor extending from east to west. The main entrance lobby, fronting Constitution Avenue, leads to the center of this corridor and will continue to serve as the primary access to the courthouse complex.

On the exterior, vertical sections composed of aluminum windows and black granite spandrel panels are set within limestone walls above a granite base. Suggesting abstracted colonnades, the façades reflect the stripped-down classicism that was popular for government buildings in the decades after World War II.

While clearly expressive of its time, the William B. Bryant Annex complements the architecture of the existing eight-story courthouse by relating to its materials, proportions, and plan. Façades of limestone and light-colored precast concrete harmonize with the existing building. Precast window surrounds and other decorative exterior elements are simply shaped to complement the subdued classical style of the neighboring structure.

The annex establishes a more apparent classical identity with a tripartite arrangement of rusticated base, middle, and top. Within the façades, colorful elements accentuate the crisply defined architectural order. Red precast concrete punctuates the vertical grouping of windows within the center of each courtroom bay and the recesses between them. Panels of granite and bluestone are set into the limestone base. Green-painted metal is applied to the bay connecting the new courthouse to the old one.

Inside the annex, spaces are skillfully organized to extend and reinforce the

connection between new and existing courtrooms. The entrance to the addition, used primarily by judges, attorneys and staff, is located in the center of the block along C Street. It opens to a marble-paneled lobby leading to the main, east-west corridor. These public circulation spaces align with the central hallway in the 1952 structure, so that visitors and staff can easily walk from the old courthouse to the new one. This continuity of circulation continues on the upper floors to unify the entire courthouse complex.

At the juncture of the new and old buildings, a long, narrow atrium rises to the top of the annex to both serve as a separating light well and a bonding link between the two structures. A six-story circular stair tower with bridges crossing this interior public room dominates the space and is the connective tissue between floors in both portions of the courthouse.

On the fourth and sixth levels, four District courtrooms are symmetrically distributed per floor and well positioned to take advantage of the atrium's light.

They adjoin a public corridor extending along the atrium and are framed by clerestory windows that emit daylight. Another courtroom on the second floor, adjacent to the rotunda, will be shared by Appellate and District courts.

Two-story in height, the courtrooms are elegantly finished in four-square paneling and partitions of stained curly maple. While arranged in a similar manner to the existing courtrooms, each is 200 square feet larger to allow for multi-defendant trials and a variety of furniture layouts. Behind the courtrooms, judges' chambers and related offices are arranged along the eastern face of the building, a small wing on the northern side, and within the upper stories of the rotunda. Visible from any of these spaces are majestic views of the Capitol dome and L'Enfant's enduring urban matrix.









GENERAL FACTS ABOUT THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX

The William B. Bryant Annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse in the Washington, DC, adds 351,000 gross square feet to the eastern side of the existing, 576,500 square-foot courthouse. This new building occupies a 1.68-acre parcel bordered by Third Street, NW, to the east, C Street, NW, to the north, and Constitution Avenue, NW, to the south. This site, a former parking lot for the original courthouse, is located to the west of Capitol Hill and north of the National Mall. It is surrounded by significant public buildings, including the Federal Trade Commission and the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art.

The seven-story, 102-foot high annex houses nine courtrooms. One on the second floor is primarily used as a District courtroom and can also function as a Court of Appeals as the need arises. Four District courtrooms are located on the fourth floor, and four additional District courtrooms occupy the sixth floor. These spaces augment the 20 District courtrooms and one Appellate courtroom in the existing courthouse. Between the new courtrooms in the annex are attorney meeting rooms accessible from the public corridor to the

west and secure prisoner holding cells. The annex also includes eight chambers for court of appeals judges, 11 chambers for District judges, and office space for court-related and federal functions.

Courtrooms, chambers, and offices are arranged within four bays to the east of a 77-foot-high daylit atrium positioned between the annex and existing courthouse. These bays are topped by barrel-vaulted roofs that distinguish the location of the courtrooms and their associated functions on the east and west façades. Spaces under the vaults contain mechanical equipment to heat and cool the building.

The atrium incorporates stairs and bridges to link the various levels of the annex to the 1952 courthouse. The main east-west procession through the annex is aligned with the east-west corridor in the existing building to reinforce this connection. On the ground floor of the annex, this public promenade leads from the entrance on Third Street within the center bay through the main lobby to the atrium.

At the southern end of the annex, a circular bay extends from the main block to engage

the street edge. This “rotunda” contains a cafeteria on the ground floor and judges’ chambers on the upper levels. A square block on the northern side of the building on C Street, NW, encloses more chambers and office space. Two underground levels accommodate 173 parking spaces, secure prisoner access, and rooms for mechanical and electrical equipment.

Designed to complement the older courthouse, the annex is clad in Indiana limestone at the base with inset panels of granite and bluestone. Upper stories and window surrounds are sheathed in precast concrete. Red-colored precast concrete is applied around the aluminum-framed windows in the center of each vaulted bay and in the recesses between the bays. Atrium walls between the new and old buildings are covered in painted metal. Entrance doors are nickel-finished metal.

The structure is designed in compliance with GSA’s Level C Blast Criteria to resist progressive collapse. Careful consideration was given to exterior walls, perimeter glazing, public interior spaces, door assemblies, and other elements to satisfy thermal, ballistic, wind load, and acoustical criteria. Mechanical and electrical systems

were selected to promote energy efficiency, ease of maintenance, and longevity. A digital control building management system regulates heating and cooling temperatures. Most of the lighting fixtures are energy-saving fluorescents. Electrical controls, including a daylighting system in the atrium, incorporate dimming capabilities. Courtrooms, offices, and corridors are fitted with raised access floors to accommodate future change and expansion.

Interior finishes were selected to be compatible with those in the existing courthouse and express the dignity of the judiciary. Public circulation spaces have terrazzo floors, marble and plaster walls, and acoustic ceilings. Courtrooms are paneled in stained curly maple with carpeted floors, coffered plaster and acoustic ceilings, and indirect lighting.

Each new courtroom is designed to accommodate 85 people and arranged in a manner similar to the existing courtrooms. The judge’s bench is centered on the rear wall with the witness stand set between the bench and raised jury box. Each function is enclosed by a low, curved partition detailed to harmonize with the wood paneling on the walls and furnishings within the room.





Location

A 1.68-acre parcel of land located to the east of the E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse in downtown Washington, DC, and bounded by Third and C Streets, NW, and Constitution Avenue, NW.

Size

351,000 Gross Square Feet
102 Feet High
Seven Floors Above Grade,
Including Mechanical Penthouses
Two Floors Below Grade for Parking

Time Frame

Design Approved: March 1999
Construction Started: March 2002
Occupancy: October 2005

Parking

Interior 173 Spaces

Structure

Concrete frame system with joists supported on cast-in-place girders spanning between columns; steel trusses supporting steel decks above courtrooms.

Foundation

Augercast piles and pile caps

Mechanical

Chilled water and hot water are piped to air-handling units in penthouses under the barrel-vaulted roofs and other units throughout the building. The courthouse annex is served by five passenger elevators, one restricted access elevator for judges, two elevators for prisoners, one hydraulic elevator for food service and one freight elevator.

Exterior Walls

Limestone panels above a granite base with inset panels of slate and granite; precast concrete and window surrounds on upper stories, aluminum-framed windows.

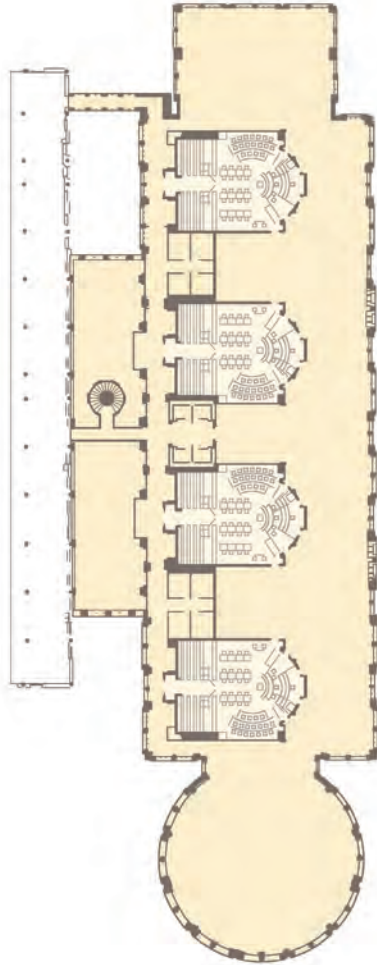
Public Area Interior Finishes

Lobby: Terrazzo floors inset with decorative patterns, marble wall and column paneling, acoustic ceiling.

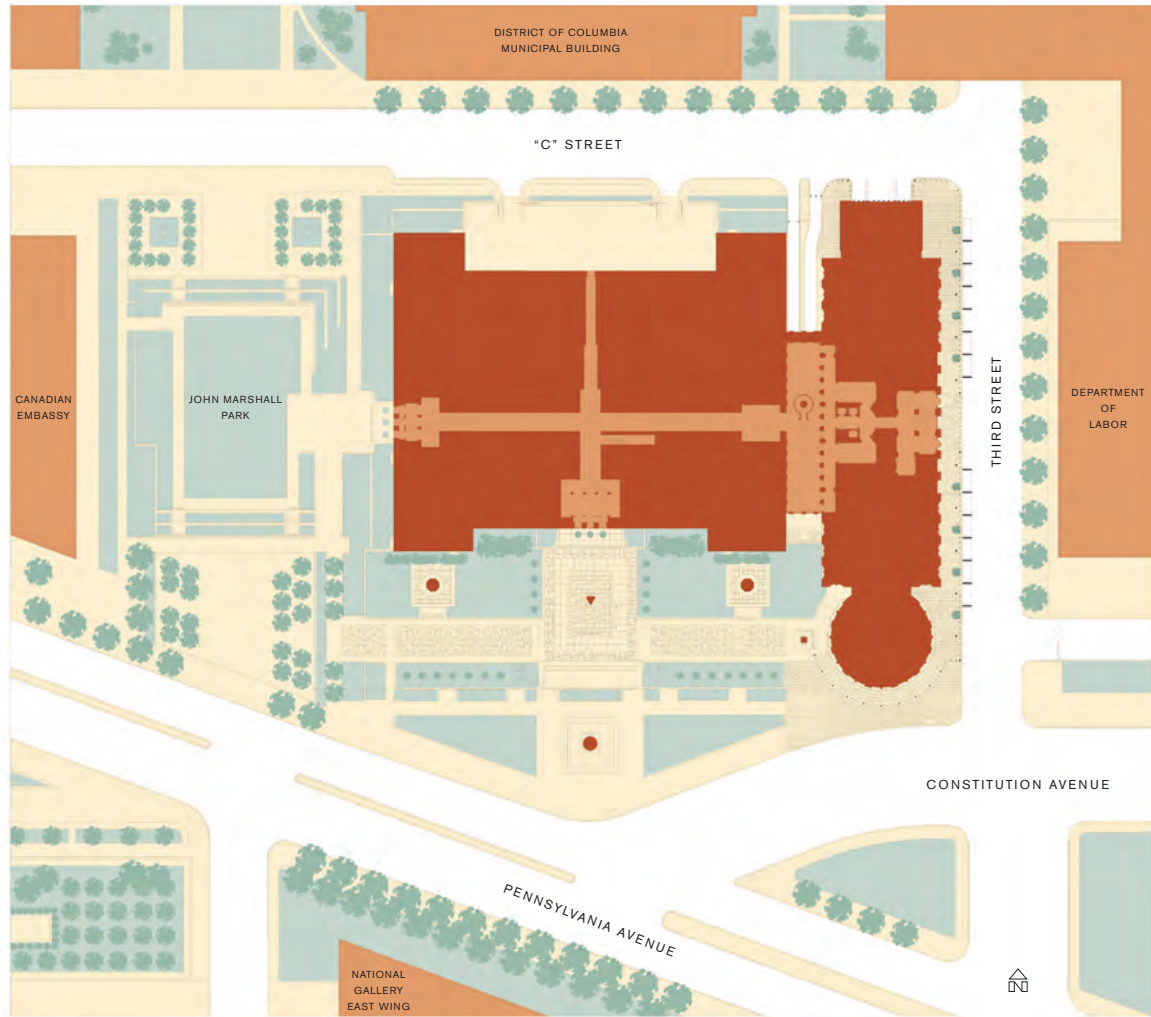
Corridors: Painted wallboard and stone base.

Courtrooms: Wood and marble wall paneling, carpeted floors, plaster and acoustic ceilings.





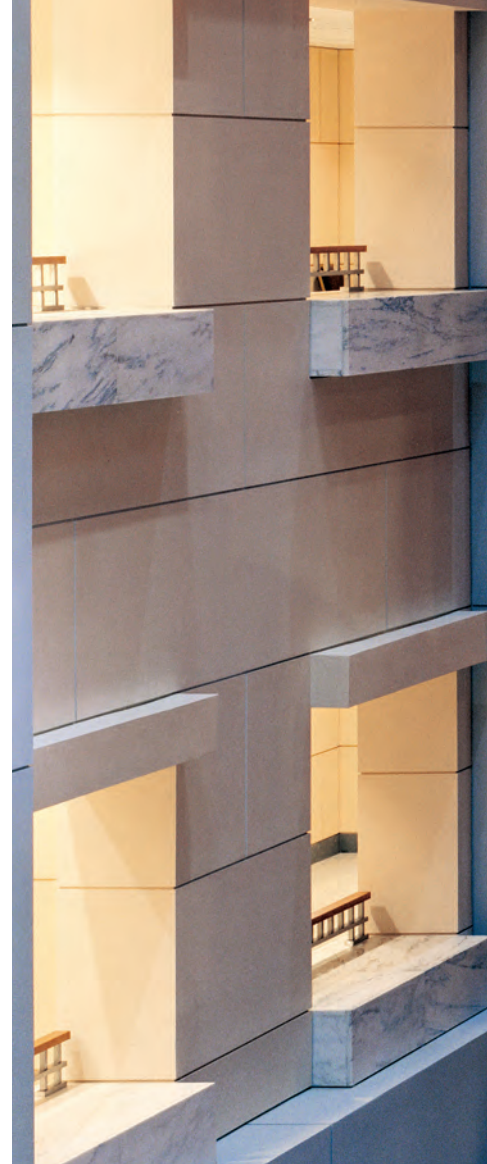
Fourth Floor Plan



Site Plan











PROFILE: WILLIAM B. BRYANT

September 18, 1911 – November 13, 2005

The Honorable William Benson Bryant was the first African American to serve as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. He served as Chief Judge from March 1977 to September 1981, but continued hearing a full load of cases as a Senior Judge until his death on November 13, 2005, at the age of 94. Judge Bryant was appointed U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia by President Lyndon B. Johnson in August 1965 after distinguishing himself in private practice and as a federal prosecutor in Washington. He was hired as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia in 1951, becoming the first African American prosecutor permitted to try cases in Washington's federal courthouse.

Judge Bryant was revered as a Washingtonian who spent his life overcoming racial odds to represent District of Columbia residents with such excellence that the legal establishment had to admit him. He was born in Wetumpka, Alabama, on September 18, 1911. His family moved to Washington, DC, in 1912. He attended the then-segregated

the District of Columbia public schools and went on to attend Howard University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1932 and continued at Howard University to receive a law degree in 1936, where he graduated first in his class.

After graduation, Judge Bryant served as chief research assistant to Dr. Ralph Bunche. Judge Bryant taught at Howard University Law School and served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1947. Among his many notable cases is the landmark *Mallory v. United States*, where the Supreme Court ruled that a criminal suspect had a right to be brought before a judge promptly after arrest.

BIOGRAPHY: THE ARCHITECT

Michael Graves, FAIA, received his architectural training at the University of Cincinnati and Harvard University. In 1960, he won the Rome Prize and studied at the American Academy in Rome, of which he is now a Trustee. In 1962, Graves began a teaching career at Princeton University, where he is now the Robert Schirmer Professor of Architecture, Emeritus.

Since starting his own practice in 1964, Graves has designed more than 300 buildings worldwide. Among his varied projects are office buildings, hotels, restaurants, facilities for sports and recreation, healthcare centers, embassies, courthouses, university buildings, museums, theaters and public libraries. They range from early projects such as the award-winning Humana Building in Louisville, Kentucky, to more recent work such as the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport in The Hague. He is currently designing the new U.S. Courthouse in Nashville, TN; and the U.S. Department of Transportation headquarters in Washington, DC.

Today, the architect heads Michael Graves & Associates, the architecture and interior design practice, and Michael Graves Design Group, a studio devoted to product and graphic design that has created more than 1,700 consumer items for companies such as Disney, Steuben, and Target. The two firms have received more than 175 design awards and employ more than 100 people in offices in Princeton, New Jersey, and New York City. Their services are highly integrated, supporting a continuum among architecture, interiors, and furnishings.

In 2001, the American Institute of Architects awarded Graves its Gold Medal, the highest award bestowed upon an individual. Graves also received the 1999 National Medal of Arts and the 2001 Frank Annunzio Award from the Christopher Columbus Society, a prestigious award sanctioned by the U.S. Congress. He has received 11 honorary doctorates and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.



THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION TEAM

Owner

U.S. General Services Administration
Regional Office: Washington, DC

Design Architect

Michael Graves & Associates
Princeton, NJ

Executive Architect

SmithGroup
Washington, DC

Historic Preservation Architect

Oehrlein & Associates Architects
Washington, DC

GSA Project Team

Tyrone Anderson (Project and
Construction Manager)
Eric Albrecht (former Project and
Construction Manager)
Gary Lee (former Project Manager)
Christine Kelly (Contracting Officer)
Dean Smith (Project Executive)
Frank Miles (former Project Executive)
Doug Nelson (Director, Property
Development Division)
Gary Breeds (Buildings Manager)
Jonathan Cohn (Asset Manager)
Brad Harrison (Asset Manager)

Design Excellence National Peers

J. Max Bond, Jr.
Davis Brody Bond, LLP
New York, NY

Harry G. Robinson III
Vice President of Administration
Howard University
Washington, DC

Ralph Lerner
Dean, School of Architecture
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ

Robert Campbell
Architecture Critic, *The Boston Globe*
Boston, MA

Construction Excellence National Peers

Rosemary Breiner
Breiner Construction Co., Inc.
Denver, CO

Brunis (Ed) Stewart
Caddell Construction Co., Inc.
Montgomery, AL

Robert Williams
Messer Construction
Lexington, KY

Judicial Planner

Ricci Architects & Planners
New York, NY

Construction Manager

Jacobs Facilities, Inc.
Arlington, VA

General Contractor

Centex Construction Company
Fairfax, VA

Structural Engineer

ReStl Designers, Inc.
Gaithersburg, MD

Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing Engineers

SmithGroup
Washington, DC

Civil Engineer

A. Morton Thomas & Associates
Rockville, MD

Blast Engineer

Weidlinger Associates, Inc.
New York, NY

**Fire Protection, Life Safety,
Telecommunications, and Security**

Systech Group, Inc.
Reston, VA

Cost Estimating

Project Cost, Inc.
Alexandria, VA

Landscape Architect

Johnson Johnson Roy, Inc.
Chicago, IL

Lighting Designer

Grenald Waldron Associates
Narbeth, PA

Acoustics

Polysonics, Inc.
Washington, DC

Elevators

Technical Inspection of DC, Inc.
Columbia, MD

Signage

The 1717 Design Group
Richmond, VA

Food Service

Cini-Little International, Inc.
Rockville, MD

Hazardous Materials

AAS Environmental, Inc.
Bethesda, MD

In relating the interior to the exterior of the building, the four vaulted bays create architecture analogous to the clarity of our justice system.

Michael Graves
Architect







U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AND THE DESIGN EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Public buildings are part of a nation's legacy. They are symbolic of what Government is about, not just places where public business is conducted.

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is responsible for providing work environments and all the products and services necessary to make these environments healthy and productive for federal employees and cost-effective for the American taxpayers. As builder for the federal civilian government and steward of many of our nation's most valued architectural treasures that house federal employees, GSA is committed to preserving and adding to America's architectural and artistic legacy.

GSA established the Design Excellence Program in 1994 to change the course of public architecture in the federal government. Under this program, administered by the Office of the Chief Architect, GSA has engaged many of the finest architects, designers, engineers, and artists working in America today to design the future landmarks of our nation. Through collaborative partnerships, GSA is implementing the goals of the 1962 Guiding

Principles for Federal Architecture: (1) producing facilities that reflect the dignity, enterprise, vigor and stability of the federal government, emphasizing designs that embody the finest contemporary and architectural thought; (2) avoiding an official style; and (3) incorporating the work of living American artists in public buildings. In this effort, each building is to be both an individual expression of design excellence and part of a larger body of work representing the best that America's designers and artists can leave to later generations.

To find the best, most creative talent, the Design Excellence Program has simplified the way GSA selects architects and engineers for construction and major renovation projects and opened up opportunities for emerging talent, small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses. The program recognizes and celebrates the creativity and diversity of the American people.

The Design Excellence Program is the recipient of a 2003 National Design Award from the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, and the 2004 Keystone Award from the American Architectural Foundation.



U.S. General Services Administration

Public Buildings Service

Office of the Chief Architect

Design Excellence and the Arts

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U.S. General Services Administration