

Daughters of the American Revolution – Constitution Hall Lobby and President General’s Reception Room Restoration

INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Washington, DC

The Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 and is headquartered in Washington, D.C. The non-profit, non-political volunteer women’s service organization is dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America’s future through better education for children. The organization’s National Society Headquarters complex, comprised of Memorial Continental Hall, Constitution Hall, and the Administration Building, occupies a full city block within Washington DC’s historic monumental core. Constitution Hall is a designated National Historic Landmark. Constitution Hall was designed by John Russell Pope and built in 1929.

A series of restoration projects have addressed ongoing maintenance, preservation, and project planning concerns of this national organization headquarters. This includes the renovation of the historic interior of the President General’s Reception Room and the lobbies of Constitution Hall, a 3,700- seat auditorium venue. The project also included hazardous materials abatement and mechanical upgrades throughout Constitution Hall.

The lobbies of Constitution Hall welcome over half a million patrons annually, attending events such as concerts by the National Symphony Orchestra, National Geographic’s film series, the Country Music Awards, and the annual taping of Jeopardy! The 475-foot-long U-shaped lobbies for this grand venue underwent a renovation project. Particular attention was given to the plaster walls and the rich details of the acoustical plaster

ceilings. After extensive surveys of the conditions of existing materials, the design team consulted with plaster craftsmen. Paint removal went a long way to better reveal the bas relief detailing. The richness of the decorative plaster reliefs and gilded rosette light fixtures within the continuous vaulted ceilings are now punctuated with a new palette of color and finishes which highlight the opulence of the historic space. A custom carpet was designed to complement the neoclassical details in the ceiling and custom draperies were provided in the semi-circular niches. The metal paneled doors were restored with faux mahogany graining and the doors to the auditorium received new leather and restored oval leaded lights. Lighting throughout the lobby was upgraded and enhanced with LED fixtures and drinking fountains were replaced with decorative marble backsplashes. The restored lobbies provide a sophisticated gathering space and appropriate entry into this nationally significant landmark venue.

A separate project renovated the President General’s Reception Room, which is primarily used for private events and gatherings for dignitaries, performers, and special guests of the Congress and the President General. Drawing upon the richness of the period furnishings and antiques and inspired by the custom carpet that fills the room, this stately formal reception space was renewed. The room is brightened with a new paint scheme which complements and accentuates the restored ceiling medallion and intricate architectural details that surround the room.



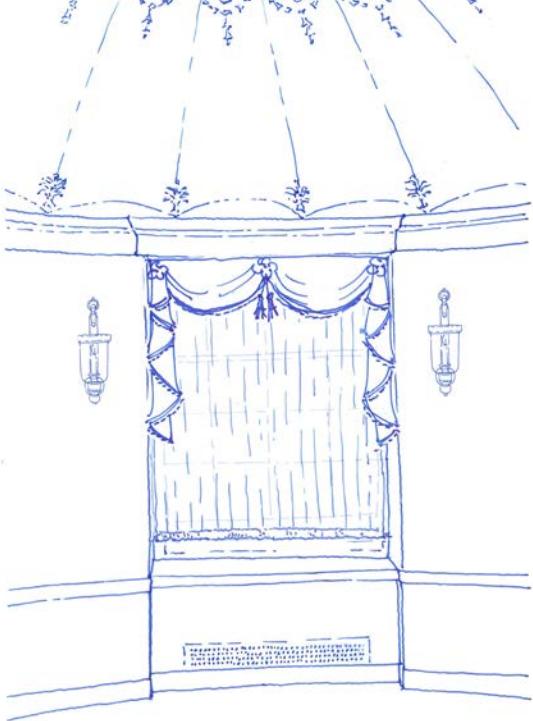
Northwest Niche
CONSTITUTION HALL LOBBY

1930



Northwest Niche
CONSTITUTION HALL LOBBY

1967



Decorative Selections
CONSTITUTION HALL LOBBY

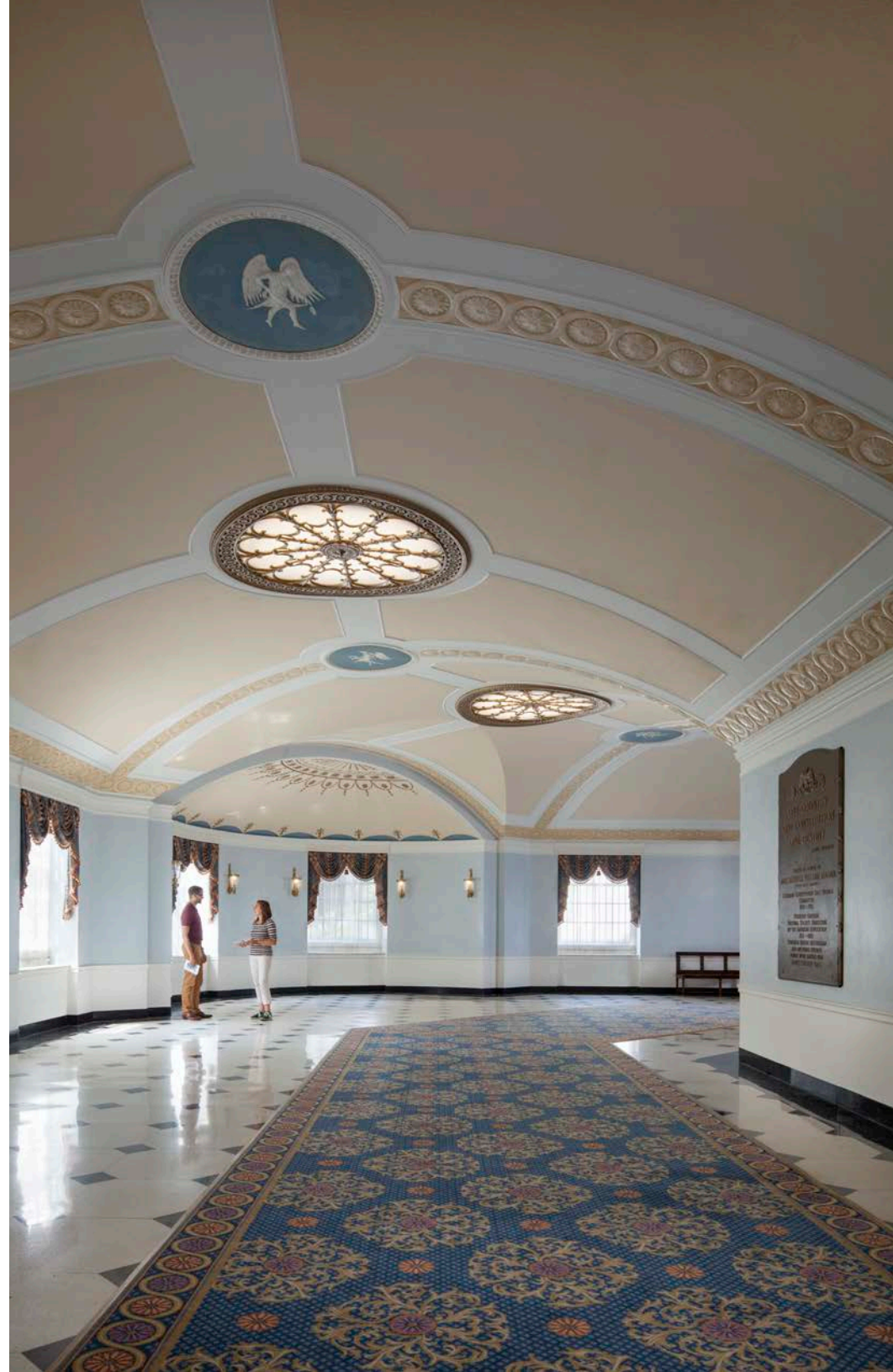
Final Concept Design
CONSTITUTION HALL LOBBY





Renovated Space & Plasterwork
CONSTITUTION HALL LOBBY

“ The restoration [...] recovered the richness of the decorative plaster details, returning the spaces to their original grandeur.”





Renovated Space

CONSTITUTION HALL LOBBY



Renovated Space
CONSTITUTION HALL LOBBY



Historic Photographs
PRESIDENT GENERAL'S RECEPTION ROOM

1930



1987

Renovated Space
PRESIDENT GENERAL'S RECEPTION ROOM



The space provides all the elements of a modern event venue within the beauty and sophistication of a nationally significant historic landmark”





Renovated Space
PRESIDENT GENERAL'S RECEPTION ROOM