Thirty Years of Courthouse Design

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Don Hardenbergh
Todd Phillips

Retrospective of Courthouse Design: 1980 - 2010

National Center for State Courts
Web: www.ncsc.org | Phone: (800) 466-3063
The following PowerPoint presentation contains selected images from the *Retrospective of Courthouse Design 2001-2010* publication and summarizes the evolving courthouse design issues observed.

The publication is a compilation of 94 courthouse projects designed in the decade with color images/renderings of building interiors and exteriors, line drawings of building plans, architects’ statements, and project information.

To order a hard copy of the *Retrospective* visit:  www.ncsc.org/retrospective2010 or contact  Alisa Kim at: (email) akim@ncsc.org (phone) 303-293-3063.

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## Retrospective Jury Review Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retrospective Jury Panel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Justice Robert A. Mulligan</strong>, Chief Justice for Administration and Management, Massachusetts Trial Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Robert Boyle, AIA</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prof. Wayne Drummond, FAIA</strong>, Dean, College of Architecture University of Nebraska Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rona G. Rothenberg, FAIA</strong>, Office of Court Construction and Management, California Office of Court Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marcus W. Reinkensmeyer</strong>, Court Administrator, Maricopa County AZ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review Criteria</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Image</td>
<td>Functionality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contextual Sensitivity</td>
<td>Service Delivery Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Materials</td>
<td>Whole Building Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Light &amp; Sustainability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of Projects

- Retrospective 1991-2001: 89
- Retrospective 2001-2010: 94
Project Types

Retrospective 1980-1991

- Federal: 7
- Appellate: 3
- General Jurisdiction: 38
- Specialty and Limited Jurisdiction: 5

Retrospective 1991-2001

- Federal: 28
- Appellate: 4
- General Jurisdiction: 44
- Specialty and Limited Jurisdiction: 13

Retrospective 2001-2010

- Federal: 12
- Appellate: 9
- General Jurisdiction: 52
- Specialty and Limited Jurisdiction: 15
- International: 6
Project Size

Retrospective 1980-1991

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross Square Feet</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 100k</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100k - 200k</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200k – 400k</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400k and more</td>
<td>9</td>
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</table>

Retrospective 1991-2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross Square Feet</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 100k</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100k - 200k</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200k – 400k</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400k and more</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Retrospective 2001-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross Square Feet</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 100k</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100k - 200k</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200k – 400k</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400k and more</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Geographic Representation (2001-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Construction Costs (2001-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Cost/SF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>$320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>$196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>$184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>$365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Project Delivery Methods

#### Retrospective 1991-2001

- **Design/Bid/Build**: 73
- **Design/Build**: 2
- **Construction Manager**: 10
- **Other**: 6

#### Retrospective 2001-2010

- **Design/Bid/Build**: 37
- **Design/Build**: 11
- **Construction Manager**: 30
- **Other**: 15
Funding Methods

Retrospective 1991-2001

- Appropriation: 45%
- Bonds: 38%
- Certificates of Participation: 2%
- Court Fees: 2%
- Historic Preservation Grant: 1%
- Private Financing: 1%
- Special Tax: 10%

Funding Method | Number
--- | ---
Appropriation | 41
Bonds | 34
Certificates of Participation | 2
Court Fees | 2
Historic Preservation Grant | 1
Private Financing | 1
Special Tax | 9

Retrospective 2001-2010

- Appropriation: 29%
- Bonds: 50%
- Certificates of Participation: 3%
- Court Fees: 8%
- Historic Preservation Grant: 3%
- Private Financing: 5%
- Special Tax: 2%

Funding Method | Number
--- | ---
Appropriation | 30
Bonds | 52
Certificates of Participation | 3
Court Fees | 8
Historic Preservation Grant | 3
Private Financing | 5
Special Tax | 2
Retrospective Themes

► Massing Strategies
► Court Floor Layouts
► Courtroom Design
► The Presence of the Past
► Many Faces of Justice
► Affirming Transparency and Openness, “Rejecting the Architecture of Fear”
Massing Strategies

Adjudication and Support Space
Brooklyn Supreme and Family Courthouse
Brooklyn NY
Perkins Eastman
Seattle Federal Courthouse
Seattle WA
NBBJ
Clark County Justice Center
Tate Snyder Kimsey Architects

Las Vegas NV
San Bernardino Courthouse
Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill
Court Floor Layouts

Single Loaded Corridors
Double Loaded Corridors
Staten Island Courthouse
St. George NY
Polshek Partnership Architects

2-4 TYPICAL
Fall River Justice Center
Fall River, MA
Finegold Alexander + Associates
Westchester County Courthouse
Pei Cobb Freed & Partners / Fuller and D’Angelo

White Plains NY
Manatee County Judicial Center
Bradenton, FL

HOK / Fawley Bryant Architects

LEVEL 4 - COURTS
1. PUBLIC CIRCULATION
2. PRIVATE CIRCULATION
3. SECURE CIRCULATION
4. HOLDING CELLS
5. COURTROOMS
6. SHERIFF'S OFFICE
7. CHAMBERS, JURY ROOMS & REMAINDER OF COURT SUITE
8. STATE ATTORNEY
9. SERVICE SPACES
Lorain County Justice Center
Elyria OH
Bostwick Design Partnership / HOK.
Lindsey-Flanagan Courthouse
Denver CO
Klipp / RicciGreene Associates
U.S. Courthouse
Jacksonville FL
Heery International / KBJ Architect
Calaveras County Courthouse
Andreas CA
DLR Group
York County Courthouse

HOK

York PA

LEVELS 5-7 PLAN  1"=32'
Worcester Trial Court
Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott

Worcester, MA
Courtrooms

Relationship to Perimeter Wall
Metropolitan Courthouse
Nashville TN
Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon / PSA-Dewberry
U.S. Courthouse
Jacksonville FL
Heery International / KBJ Architect
Seattle Federal Courthouse

Seattle, WA

NBBJ
Penobscot Judicial Center
Leers Weinzapfel Associates Architects

SECOND FLOOR
PENOBSCOT JUDICIAL CENTER
Maricopa County
Gould Evans + AECOM

COURTROOM SECTION
The courtrooms are organized to allow for daylighting opportunities. Lightshelves on the North and South elevations bring borrowed light into courtrooms while shading the window opening below the shelves.
Courtroom Design

Round Courtrooms

Center Bench

Corner Bench

Technology
Round Courtrooms

Marin County Civic Center, 1962
Frank Lloyd Wright and Aaron Green

- Early example of round courtroom.
- Popular in 1970s and 1980s
- Extremely rare today – no examples in current Retrospective
Both corner bench and center bench arrangements are common throughout current Retrospective.
Today, both technology and security are built into the design.
Presence of the Past

Renovation
Rehabilitation
Re-programming
John Adams Courthouse
CBT Architects

Boston, MA

Building exterior at Pemberton Square plaza entry reconfigured for accessibility

New Sixth Justice Courtroom – Supreme Judicial Court

Supreme Judicial Court Courtroom and Supreme Court Gallery office from the Grand Hall

Supreme Judicial Court Courtroom and Supreme Court Gallery office from the Grand Hall
Essex County Courthouse
Newark NJ
Farewell Mills Gatsch Architects
Essex County Courthouse
Newark NJ
Farewell Mills Gatsch Architects
New York Family Court
Mitchell | Giurgola Architects

New York NY

New York Family Court

Mitchell | Giurgola Architects

New York NY
Many Faces of Justice

Traditional
DC Court of Appeals, Washington DC
Beyer Blinder Belle & Partners

New York State Court of Appeals, Albany NY
DeWolff Partnership Architects
Connecticut Appellate Courthouse, Hartford CT  RicciGreene Associates

Harris County 1910 Courthouse, Houston TX  PGAL
U.S. Federal Courthouse, Davenport IA  
Downing Architects / The Leonard Parker Architects / Durrant Group

Metropolitan Courthouse, Nashville TN  
Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon / PSA-Dewberry
Missouri Court of Appeals, St. Louis MO
Trivers Associates

Ohio Judicial Center, Columbus OH
Schooley Caldwell Associates / Moody Caldwell
Many Faces of Justice

New “Traditional”
Hialeah Courthouse, Hialeah FL
HOK

Flagler County Courthouse, Bunnell FL
AECOM / DJ Design
Norfolk Courts Complex, Norfolk VA
Fentress Architects
Many Faces of Justice

Abstracted Traditionalism
U.S. District Courthouse, Alpine TX

Penobscot Judicial Center, Bangor ME

Leers Weinzaphel Associates
Maricopa County Courthouse, Phoenix AZ
Gould Evans + AECOM

19th Judicial District Courthouse, Baton Rouge LA
Post Architects / KPS Group
Many Faces of Justice

Non-Traditional
U. S. Courthouse, Seattle  WA  
NBBJ

Brooklyn Supreme and Family Courthouse  
Perkins Eastman
U.S. Courthouse, Fresno CA
Gruen Architects / Moore Ruble Yudell

Calaveras County Courthouse, Andreas CA
DLR Group
Miami Dade Children’s Courthouse, Miami  FL
HOK / Perez & Perez Architects Planners

Franklin Co. Courthouse, Columbus  OH
Design Group / Architectonica
George Allen Sr. Courthouse, Dallas TX
Rees Associates

Lindsey Flanagan Courthouse, Denver CO
Klipp / Ricci Greene Associates / Harold Massop
Many Faces of Justice

Other Projects
New Supreme Court Building
Singapore
Foster + Partners / CPG Consultants
Leighton Judicial Complex, Warwick  RI  
HOK

Roma Mitchell Commonwealth Law Courts, Adelaide  Australia  
HASSELL
Transparency and Openness

“Rejecting the Architecture of Fear”
Miami Dade Children’s Courthouse
Miami FL
HOK / Perez & Perez Architects Planners
Lorain Justice Center
Elyria OH
Bostwick Design Partnership / HOK
Westchester Co. Courthouse
Pei Cobb Freed & Partners Architects / Fuller and D’Angelo

White Plains  NY
Onondaga County Courthouse
Syracuse NY
Ashley McGraw Architects
Mecklenburg County Courthouse
Charlotte NC
HDR Architecture / Kallmann Mckinnell & Wood Architects / Schenkel & Schultz Architects
U.S. Courthouse
PSA - Dewberry / Koetter Kim & Associates

Rockford IL
Clark County Regional Justice Center
Tate Snyder Kimsey Architects

Las Vegas NV
U.S. Courthouse
Jacksonville FL
Heery International / KBJ Architect
Hialeah Courthouse
Hialeah, FL
HOK
New York Family Court
Mitchell | Giurgola Architects
Queens Family Court
Jamaica NY
Pei Cobb Freed & Partners Architects / Gruzen Samton Architects
Montgomery County Judicial Center
Rockville MD

AECOM
Conclusion

- **Building Programs** – Judicial Only vs “Justice Emporium”
- **Building Organization** – Massing, Core Spaces [Court Floors / Courtrooms], Support Spaces
- **Quality and Character of Space** – Light, Openness, Clarity, Size
- **Building Performance** – Re: Sustainability [LEED]
- **Existing Buildings** – New Life for Older Stock
- **Judicial Imagery** – “Does it look like a courthouse?”
This PowerPoint presentation includes a sampling of selected images from the *Retrospective of Courthouse Design 2001-2010* publication.

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