

Space-Related Recommendations

June 17 2016

Already adopted recommendations re: space

1. To appropriately and prominently recognize Cass Gilbert, a room should bear his name and could include having a limited permanent display on him in the Cass Gilbert Room.
2. A more extensive and prominent display at the re-opening should highlight his life and work, including highlighting how he won the Capitol commission and the innovations incorporated in its design.
3. Priority for new temporary and rotating art exhibits should be given to the new public space on the third floor.
4. Designating specific areas to feature significant collections of art about a specific era or topic would allow for a more comprehensive interpretation of events or eras than the current scattering of pieces throughout the Capitol building. (Potential groupings mentioned have included MN pre-statehood, the civil war, governors in the context of their times).
5. Art in the historic major public corridors should tell the story in a way that doesn't require extensive interpretation.
6. Any art to be hung within the decorative painted borders of a corridor must be scaled to fit in a way that does not unduly distract from the borders.

Additional space related recommendations for the subcommittee consider

- A. All who occupy the Capitol should be made aware that the furnishings are part of the art and design of the Capitol and need to be respected as such and not moved without official authorization.
- B. It should be made clear to any contracted vendor located in the Capitol that the state controls the art in the public spaces.
- C. Responsibilities for security protections (including alert systems), insurance, ongoing inventory and assessment of condition need to be clearly assigned and regularly attended to.
- D. The ornate decorative woodwork in the Governor's reception room should be modified during the restoration to allow for easier access to the art displayed there now and in the future.
- E. The subcommittee acknowledges the interest in additional art being placed in the Governor's reception room but didn't have time to weigh alternatives or address the anteroom.
- F. Visitors have delighted in how Cass Gilbert tucked symbols of Minnesota into railings, frames, and decorative art (gophers, corn husks, oak leaves, etc.) It is suggested that consideration be given to finding ways to do the same with the state symbols adopted in modern times (the loon, walleye, etc.)

- G. The existing collection should be reviewed to see if some fit better elsewhere in the Capitol Complex (for example, some are in the new Minnesota Senate Building and were traditionally related to the Senate).
- H. Signage is part of the visual experience of the visitor and needs to be designed as such and be intuitive and done from a lay person or new visitor's perspective, referring to key rooms or functions, not just room numbers.
- I. Consideration should be given to not hanging art in the major corridors of the first floor to highlight the architectural design.
- J. The Basement should be renamed the Foundation level. "Basement" conveys images of a less finished and useable space. A new name fits this greatly enhanced multi-purpose space and its new finishes and bright lighting. (Its current designation confuses visitors who use the tunnel system between buildings)
- K. Consideration should be given to aid visitors in wayfinding and organizing the "story" of the building to designating floors by function. One possible approach (could just use titles, not descriptions):
- F - Foundation Level - The past is the foundation of the future and the state is built on its history, its diverse people and their talents, and our strong communities and natural wonders.
 - G - Ground level. We are all grounded in our recent experiences and our education. (sight of MHS classroom, maybe more recent governors).
 - 1 – Ceremonial Level. The grand architectural vision and gathering places challenge us to come together and work towards big, important dreams for our collective future.
 - 2. – Decision making level. Government forging the future in partnership with engaged citizens, using the wisdom of the past.
 - 3. - Minnesota level. Celebrating Minnesota's talents and the attributes that help It build a strong future.