

COMMISSION ON THE RESTORATION OF THE CAPITOL

The Governor's Reception Room has been rehabilitated (the term used to describe alterations of an architectural space enabling a contemporary use while preserving historical, architectural, and culturally significant elements) under the direction of the New York State Commission on the Restoration of the Capitol and the New York State Office of General Services.

It was impractical to remove the floor to create the two story rotunda space envisioned in the 1920s. Thus, rehabilitation was the most historically sensitive and rational treatment for the space.

The ceiling murals were restored by Williamstown Art Conservation Center. The artwork was cleaned, flaking paint was stabilized and areas of loss were re-painted.



FURNISHINGS

Mission style furniture, popular in the early twentieth century, is featured here. Characterized by its plain, rectilinear style and its robust, handcrafted elements, Mission furniture is embellished only by its structural features and warm wood tones.

Popularized in America by Gustav Stickley (1857-1942) of Syracuse, New York, founder of the Craftsman Workshops, and Elbert Hubbard (1856-1915) and his Roycroft Shops, based in East Aurora, New York, the Mission style is an expression of the International Arts and Crafts Movement.

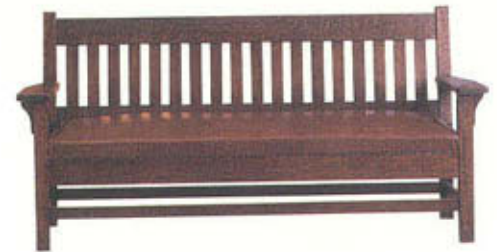
Its simple handcrafted form was a reaction against both the highly ornate furniture of the late nineteenth century and the recently introduced factory-made pieces which were viewed as shabbily produced by followers of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

The style's name is said to have come from both its "mission" in introducing simple, useful and well-made furniture to the public, as well as its association with similar style furnishings found in the contemporaneous missions of California.

The Mission style furnishings in this room were built in the early twentieth century by New York State prison inmates and New York State manufacturers.

The torcheres were designed by Francoise Bollack, a New York City-based architect. These elegant light fixtures were cast in bronze by the New Arts Foundry in Baltimore.

Mission style furniture is characterized by a vigorous expression of the structural members.



As a reaction against highly ornate furniture, the Mission style aimed for functionalism and structural truth.