



VIEW THROUGH THE ROTUNDA AND ATRIUM AREA



VIEW UP INTO THE ROTUNDA



SENATE GALLERY, WITH CREAM UTAH ONYX

## INTERIOR DESIGN

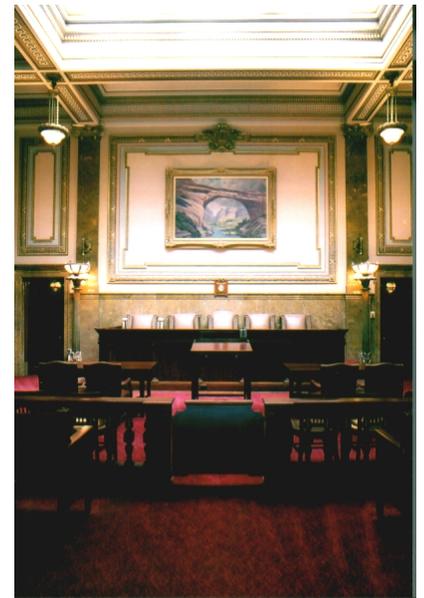
The unifying element of the interior is the vaulted, central rotunda and atrium space which communicates both vertically and horizontally with the three upper levels of the Capitol. The centerpiece is the central rotunda with its dome looming 165' above the main floor. The dome is supported by four marble-clad, coffered arches which rise up from four triangular bearing structures. Flanking the dome to the east and west are massive, vaulted skylights which allow pleasant, filtered, natural light to illuminate the great interior volume of space. Running around all four sides of the open atrium are two mezzanines, both supported by twenty-four monolithic, Ionic-style columns of polished marble. Likewise, the grand "flying" staircases to the east and west, the balustrades, floors and walls on the main floor are of variegated gray "picture" marble from Georgia. Other stone used throughout the interior includes the cream-colored Utah onyx in the front vestibule and the Senate Chambers, Birdseye (Golden travis or travertine) marble in the House and Supreme Court Chambers and State Reception (Gold) Room. On the Ground Floor, oolitic limestone from Sanpete County, most of it now painted, sheathes walls and posts.

Neo-Classical and Beaux Arts eclecticism is apparent throughout the interior design. Classical ornamental motifs in the form of moldings, cartouches, figurines, plaques, arches, foliated decoration, and much more add beauty and visual interest to the interior composition, especially in the public spaces. A variety of art pieces adds to effect. These include the painted sky and clouds on the interior dome, the murals in the semi-circular lunettes at each end of the atrium, the set of murals in the rotunda pendentives and frieze, plus several statues, individual paintings and a wide variety of exhibits placed throughout the building.

Aside from the rotunda/atrium area, the most architecturally significant rooms in the Capitol remain the Senate, House and Supreme Court Chambers and the State Reception Room, more commonly known as the Gold Room. While the three large chambers are distinguished by their vaulted ceilings, second level mezzanines (except for the Supreme Court), elaborate frontispieces, and rich materials, the smaller, one-story Gold Room is the most ornate.

The Gold Room is the formal reception room for the governor and is reserved for special occasions and important visitors. Also known as the International Room, furnishings for the room were gathered in from around the globe. Golden travis marble quarried near Birdseye, Utah was used as the accent stone. The classically influenced plaster wall and ceiling ornaments are painted or gold-leafed in sixteen different colors, complimenting the gold, brown, green, and pink found in the marble. The wood flooring is mostly covered by a 22 by 48-foot British-made rug with a beehive motif, replicating the original Chenille rug made in Glasgow.

The furnishings in the Gold Room came primarily from Europe. The large, center table is made of Russian Circassian walnut trimmed in 23-carat gold leaf. Gold leaf, at least once restored, also covers elements of the other furniture, drapes and moldings. The love seats are upholstered in purple Queen's Coronation Velvet from England. Italian brocade is intertwined with gold leaf on other furnishings. At each end of the room are large mirrors of double-beveled French plate glass framed in gold and silver mined locally. The chandeliers are also French and contain a thousand pieces of crystal-cut glass. The ceiling mural, "Children at Play," was painted over a three month period by New York artist Louis Schettle.



SUPREME COURT CHAMBER



GOLD ROOM



HOUSE GALLERY BALCONY



GOLD ROOM CEILING