



SEBESTA
BLOMBERG

PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE TECHNICAL
AND BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

CASE STUDY

Architect of the Capitol - Washington, D.C.

FAST FACTS

- The number of visitors to the Capitol has grown from 1 million in 1970 to 3 million in 2000
- The congress first met in the Capitol November 17, 1800
- The original Capitol building began construction in 1793 and was completed in 1826
- The Capitol Visitor Center can hold approximately 4,000 people at one time

CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

From its inception, the Capitol Visitor Center has been conceived as an extension of the Capitol that welcomes visitors to the seat of American government. At nearly 580,000 square feet, the CVC is the largest project in the Capitol's 212-year history and is approximately three quarters the size of the Capitol itself. The entire facility is located underground on the east side of the Capitol so as not to detract from the appearance of the Capitol and of the grounds



designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1874. The planting of 85 new trees, the restoration of historic fountains, lanterns and seat walls, and the addition of skylights, water features and granite pavers across the East Front Plaza will all serve to revitalize the historic landscape.

Sebesta Blomberg was initially contracted to perform the commissioning discovery phase that resulted in the development of the commissioning plan for the project. This involved working closely with the project team and facility staff to understand their requirements and concerns so the commissioning activities would support the overall goals of the project. The resulting commissioning scope of work, which Sebesta Blomberg is performing, involves close coordination with the project team to develop test protocols, schedule and execute performance testing of the many complex mechanical, electrical and life safety systems in the facility.

In addition to commissioning services, Sebesta Blomberg performed a technical and economic evaluation of the utility plant and utility operations serving the United States Capitol complex. Sebesta Blomberg also provided design services for extending chilled water service to a new load, over 2,000 feet from the existing distribution system piping. The existing chiller plant contained over 30,000 tons of installed capacity, serving over 12 million square feet of space. The initial utility plant work included evaluations of plant performance and capacity requirements, establishing financial criteria and value of utility plant operations, development of improved plant operation and management structures, as well as alternative plant configurations. Sebesta Blomberg also developed a hydraulic model of the existing chilled water distribution system. The CVC will continue to use the model to evaluate impact of planned load additions.

Since Sebesta Blomberg's first project with the CVC, they have continued to provide leadership in balancing the preservation, security and operational efficiency needs of this historic landmark.