

## Challenges abounded

Tough part: Blending the modern with the historic

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The hallway on the first floor of the old courthouse reveals how the... (Jason Plotkin - YDR)

Sep 29, 2006 — One of the biggest challenges of renovating the 106-year-old courthouse was modernizing the building while preserving the intricate architectural details.

For example, officials needed to install a fire sprinkler system in the building, but they didn't want to drill through the architectural details in the ceiling of the ornate Courtroom One, said Scott D. Butcher, director of business development for NuTec Design Associates Inc.

So they came up with the idea of placing the sprinklers in the side wall to preserve the intricate designs, he said.

In order to do that, though, they had to bring in a special consultant to show through computer simulation that a wall-mounted system would put out a fire.

The original floors in the J.A. Dempwolf-designed building posed problems as well.

Keystone ceramic blocks span the steel beams, said George Meshew, executive director of facilities management. Cutting through that block would have compromised the structural integrity of the floor.

Crews had to use a more modern terrazzo on the first floor instead of a historic one because they couldn't dig down as far, said Julie McGill-Kopp, an interior designer with NuTec Design Associates.

They also had to install electrical and data jacks in the side wall of the training room because of the flooring, she said.

In the central corridor, crews added lighting to brighten the hallways. Workers installed fake bulkheads to allow the wiring to cross the center and hang lights.

The bulkheads blend in with the rest of the building.

The deteriorating domes and cupolas demanded repair, Meshew said. They were in such disrepair that the county risked eventually losing them.

That work alone cost nearly \$1 million.

## The team

- Architect: NuTec Design Associates of York
- Builder: Wohlsen Construction Company of Lancaster
- Electrical contractor: The Farfield Co. of Lititz
- Mechanical contractor: Frey Lutz Corp. of Lancaster
- Plumbing contractor: Herre Brothers Inc. of Enola

· Elevator contractor: Thyssen-Krupp Elevator of York