

PROJECT PROFILE

Low Library New York, NY

VERTICAL
access



Original architect

McKim Mead & White (*completed in 1895*)

Building owner

Columbia University

In collaboration with

- Helpern Architects, *architect*
- Robert Silman Associates, *structural engineer*

Building description

- Designed in the form of a greek cross, the building is crowned by one of the largest domes in North America (70 feet across by 105 feet high). The dome pendentives are associated with barrel-vaulted arches, creating one of the most magnificent and highly used interior public spaces in New York City.
- The style is based on the Pantheon in Rome and the Parthenon in Greece.

Scope of work

- hammer sounded plaster interior of dome
- identified active and recent crack systems
- installed electronic crack monitoring equipment in inaccessible areas between the inner and outer domes and beneath the inner dome
- assisted with a “total station” survey of the areas between the two domes
- deliverables included a letter of report, photographs and a videotape of the survey

Photos by Andre Georges