



Enoch Pratt Free Library

BALTIMORE, MD

One of the oldest and most frequently visited free public library systems in the United States, the Enoch Pratt Free Library Central Branch underwent a large-scale historic restoration to preserve the past and bring new vitality to the building, expanding opportunities for learning, research, creativity, and civic engagement. The Library is a splendid example of the artistry and craftsmanship of the 20th century American Renaissance with its Neoclassical massing merged with French Art Deco-influenced metalwork. The project represented a once-in-a-generation opportunity to recapture the original design intent while adding the 21st-century amenities to better serve the public. EverGreene restored and conserved over ten rooms, lobbies, foyers, hallways, and stacks within the 300,000-square-foot building over the course of three years. Our scope of work included historic finishes investigations and decorative paint and plaster restoration. Subcontractors were engaged for metal and wood refinishing and exterior ornamental ironwork. The library celebrated its grand reopening in September 2019.

In the Central Hall, much of the original decorative paint was presenting and intact before the project began. The scope of EverGreene's work included surface cleaning, paint consolidation, inpainting paint loss, gilding, plaster repairs, and installation of new star silent acoustical plaster on upper walls.

Using historic images of the room as a map, in Room 206, EverGreene completed exposure windows and paint analysis in areas with underlying historic decorative paint. While much of the ceiling has been lost due to post-historic lighting perforation, much of the original decorative paint was existing around the perimeter...

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://evergreene.com/projects/enoch-pratt-free-library/>

(7) AWARDS

SERVICES PERFORMED

- Conservation Treatments
- Decorative Painting & Finishes
- Gilding
- Investigation, Testing & Analysis
- Murals & Mosaics
- Plaster Survey
- Plasterwork
- Surveys & Condition Assessments

PROJECT DETAILS

General Contractor

Gilbane

Lead Architect

Beyer Blinder Belle Architects

Managing Architect

Ayers/Saint/Gross

Client

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland Department of General Services

Original Architect

Clyde N. Fritz

Professional Photography

Joseph Romeo



253 36th Street, Suite 5-C | Brooklyn, New York, 11232 | (212) 244 2800 | evergreene.com