

Conrad B. Duberstein United States Bankruptcy Courthouse, Brooklyn, NY



SUPERSTRUCTURES was awarded a GSA Design Award – Citation in Preservation (2016) for the commissioning services performed on the restoration of the Conrad B. Duberstein U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse.

The Courthouse project was an ideal opportunity to deploy our proprietary software system, which allowed each element of the building envelope to be individually tracked during construction. The work included restoring or replacing 75,000 square feet of the granite and terra cotta facades, nearly 16,000 terra cotta units, 25,000 square feet of slate roof, and 1,200 wood windows.

The U.S. General Services Administration oversaw the substantial exterior restoration of the Courthouse. SUPERSTRUCTURES, as a member of the Lend Lease-led CM team, was a full participant from the initial investigation through construction documentation and construction phase services with respect to historic preservation, value engineering, and commissioning services. Other team members included architect Goody Clancy and contractor Nicholson & Galloway.

The Conrad B. Duberstein Courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a New York City Landmark. More than a half-million square feet, it occupies an entire city block. Built in 1892 and enlarged in 1933, the building historically served postal and courthouse functions; the U.S. General Services Administration purchased it in 1999, added more court space, and named it after the longtime Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York.

The original four-story structure is in the Romanesque Revival style. The exterior facades are built of granite-faced masonry embellished with carved ornament, dormers and turrets and capped with a slate mansard roof. The eight-story 1933 addition was made to emulate the appearance of the 1892 structure but is clad in terra cotta above the first floor.