



U.S. General Services Administration

United States Federal Building San Francisco, California Self-Guided Tour



America's Greenest Federal Building Designed by World Famous Architect Thom Mayne

Welcome to the new San Francisco Federal Building. You will be viewing "public space" only to minimize disruption to building occupants. The tenant work space is not included on the tour. We thank you in advance for your respect and consideration of those who work or visit here.

Public access is 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Below is a brief overview of the building and a list of the recommended tour stops. We hope that you will enjoy your visit. Restrooms (**baby-changing facilities**) are located only in the tower's Conference Center at the basement level.

Building Overview

The slender, 18-story, 240-foot tower creates a landmark for the City of San Francisco, while the four-story annex connects to the scale of the adjacent neighborhood. The large, open public plaza, along with the shared public facilities which include the café, conference center and childcare center, provide valuable assets to the community in addition to creating an innovative work environment for federal employees.

A dramatic example of sustainable design principles, the building's shape and orientation maximize natural airflow for cooling and ventilation and take advantage of natural daylight for the majority of the office interiors. These features, combined with a number of other energy-saving elements, significantly reduce overall energy consumption compared to conventional office buildings in the United States. The building incorporates building materials and construction strategies that minimize waste and energy consumption. The concrete used is a 50 percent slag-concrete mix, which is a cement replacement product. Slag is originally a waste by-product of the steel production industry. The building's construction was cost-effective, and costs only \$242.00 per square foot--an amazing deal!

The building's major tenants include: the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Office of Personnel Management, Social Security Administration, General Services Administration, and the Office of Congresswoman Pelosi.

Tour Stops

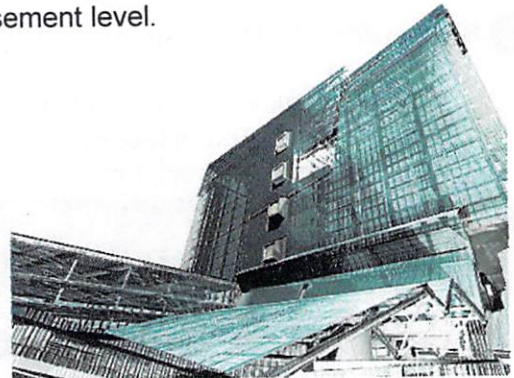
Cameras are allowed, however no photos may be taken of security guard stations, childcare center children, and tenants.

1 Main Lobby — In addition to the unique design elements and finishes, see the electronic directory and digital display wall, coffee bar, and grand central staircase that promotes exercise.

2 Conference Center (Basement Level) — The conference center is available for public use and features four GSA "Art In Architecture" works. (To access, proceed down the lobby stairs or use elevators.) Conference rooms are not a part of the tour.

3 Elevators — The building's primary elevator system includes express (skipstop) elevators that stop every third floor, opening to spacious three-story high lobbies that promote exercise through use of a dramatic central staircase. Disabled access elevators are also available and stop on every floor.

4 Skygarden — The three-story open space provides spectacular views for tenants and visitors. The Skygarden is accessible by taking elevators to the 12th floor. The Skygarden consists of the main level on the 11th floor, and two skybridges on the 12th and 13th floors. Smoking is not permitted in the Skygarden. There are no restrooms in the Skygarden. Restrooms are located only in the tower's basement level.



GSA's Art in Architecture Program

Art has always been an important feature of great architecture. Through GSA's Art in Architecture Program, American artists are commissioned to work closely with lead design architects in creating artwork for federal buildings. The San Francisco Federal Building is the venue for the following commissions:

1 Conference Center

1965, 1970, 2002

Rupert Garcia (2003)
Archival Inkjet on Canvas

Street Singing

Raymond Saunders (1993-94)
Paint and Paintstick on Wood, Mahogany Doorskin, Paper, Collage
Elements, Signage

Nightingale

Hung Liu (2002)
Oil on Canvas

Will We Get Here Now

William T. Wiley (2003)
Mixed Media on Canvas

2 Skipstop Elevator Lobbies

LEVEL AS A LEVEL

DON'T NOD

I DID DID I

MAPS, DNA, AND SPAM

Edward Ruscha (2006)
Archival Inkjet on Polyester Canvas
(Artwork in palindromes--reading the same backwards and forwards)

3 Skygarden at 11th, 12th, and 13th Floors

Skygarden (turned on from dusk to 10:00 p.m. daily)

James Turrell (2006)

Neon light sculpture



(Updated 2/17/2010)

The Greenest Federal Building



Climate Control

The new Federal Building takes advantage of the temperate climate, relying heavily on natural ventilation in the tower for much of the cooling needs, thereby reducing energy consumption.

The building is best understood as a prototype that includes different space conditioning strategies appropriate for different locations in the building. The building's first five levels are fully air-conditioned. Above the fifth floor, the windows automatically adjust to admit fresh air into the building for natural ventilation and cooling. The building is sited to make optimal use of the natural prevailing winds that come from the Northwest and pass through a sophisticated window system that enables the air to flow through the tower floors.

The upper tower's interior environment and lighting are managed by computerized lighting controls and a Building Automated System (BAS). To adjust temperature on these floors, the computer opens and closes windows and operates heating elements. Also there are windows that can be manually opened by users.

Perforated scrim panels provide some shading to the southeast side of the building, and contribute to the building's distinctive appearance.

Electrical

Lighting is typically the largest energy cost for an office building. Almost all of the workspace in the building's tower uses natural light. Electrically powered lights augment the natural lighting in workstations and common areas and are activated only when people are present. BAS manages the balance between powered and natural daylight through a series of sensors that measure both light and motion. Together, these approaches reduce energy used for lighting by approximately 26 percent over a conventional office building.

Flexible Information Technology

Large and flexible floor plans with power and data cabling conveniently routed through easily accessible, under floor space make workspace reconfiguration a simpler process.