

Low Library ♦ New York, New York



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 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