



UTAH STATE CAPITOL TERRA COTTA RESTORATION

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Originally constructed in 1916, the Utah State Capitol's highly detailed facade was designed in Classical Revival style. As part of a total restoration and seismic upgrade, KEPCO+ was selected as the cladding contractor for the terra cotta portion of the project. KEPCO+ proposed an installation method incorporating prefabricated terra cotta panels, an unprecedented installation method for this type of project.

Though much of the terra cotta on the rotunda had to be removed, each piece was catalogued so that it could be reinstalled at the same historic location. The terra cotta was then taken to KEPCO+'s Salt Lake City facility where each piece was evaluated to determine whether it would be restored or replicated. Great care was taken to preserve as much of the historic terra cotta as possible.

In total, 204 terra cotta panels, ranging in weight from 800 to 8,400 pounds, were fabricated, including the massive columns which surround the rotunda drum. Each column consists of three separate panels which were pre-registered at KEPCO+'s facility to ensure a proper fit at the jobsite.

Other panelized portions of the building include the lower balustrade, the upper newel posts, the upper balustrade, the window hoods, and the cornice. In addition to the panelized portions, some sections of the terra cotta, including the drum wall veneer and the consoles were reinstalled using a traditional handset method.

An unprecedented terra cotta restoration, each radial truss panel is engineered to incorporate both new and restored terra cotta while maintaining the original rotunda drum dimensions and blending harmoniously with the handset terra cotta as well as the pieces that were never removed.

Cladding Type:
Terra Cotta

Cladding Total:
8,700 pieces

Installation Method:
Galvanized Panels, Handset

"I liked the concept of old world terra cotta installed with new world technology. I'm thrilled with the benefits of doing it this way and hope it will open the door for the future use of classically detailed terra cotta."

Capitol Preservation Board

KEPCO+
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