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# Construction Highlights - July, 2003

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## Current Project Schedule

On Thursday, June 19, the first of several large concrete slab pours for the two-story underground parking garage took place.

To alleviate traffic congestion, the fleet of 150 concrete trucks and three boom pumps converged on the project site between the hours of 8:30 pm and 5:00 am. All through the evening and early morning hours, the crew of 90 workers poured approximately 1,300 cubic yards of concrete along the Meridian Street side of the excavation. The task was completed under temporary site lighting conditions.



Throughout the summer and early fall, additional concrete pours will be scheduled in approximately two week intervals until completion of the garage in November 2003. The larger pours that create the floors will continue to be poured at night taking advantage of the cooler hours and less traffic congestion. Smaller, vertical pours that make up the walls will take place during the day. Limited street closings may be required at various times in order to allow concrete trucks and other heavy equipment access to the site. All evening pours will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday nights.



The next major concrete pour totaling some 3,000 cubic yards is currently scheduled for the evening of Thursday, July 17, weather permitting. The web cameras will be focused on the construction action taking place on those evenings.

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## Original Cret Building



While much attention has been given recently to the concrete pouring for the garage, the restoration and renovation work continues on the interior of the existing Cret Building. Workers are in the process of removing decades of renovations,

so that the building will be restored to its original 1917 features. During the restoration process, several interesting architectural features have been uncovered and exposed for the first time in many years, such as the East Reading Room window which will be visible once more after years of being blocked by the 1970's tower addition.



The exterior restoration of the stone and windows continues and is approximately 30% complete. Interior walls are being temporarily sealed with an elastomeric sealant to protect them from the weather during the construction phase.

## Other Renovation Work



During October 2002, a bronze statue grouping titled, "Arts, Sciences and Letters" was removed from the Central Library's West Lawn on Meridian Street in preparation for site excavation. This statue, now referred to as the Bock Statue, was created by Richard W. Bock in 1892, and was placed on top of the library building in 1893. This building located at Meridian and Ohio Streets was the first building

constructed specifically for the Indianapolis Public Library.

The Bock statue remained on that site until 1967 when the building was scheduled for demolition to make way for the Downtown Hilton, now the Radisson Hotel. The Marion County Historical Society rescued the statue and turned it over to Crown Hill Cemetery for safe keeping. In 1980, the Marion County ownership back to the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, which placed on a limestone pedestal on the West Lawn.

Over the years, the sculpture was subject to vandalism and weather damage. Several small pieces



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of the work were removed or damaged. As part of the renovation and expansion of Central Library, a contract was awarded to Venus Bronze Works, Detroit, Michigan, to refurbish the statue to its original splendor, including the authentic recreation of several missing pieces.

The cleaning treatment will involve removing all previous coatings and corrosion products from the bronze castings, followed by the application of a new hot patina and protective coating. To recreate the missing objects, molds will be made, and then the objects will be cast in silicon bronze.

The refurbished statue is scheduled for re-installation on the roof of the Central Library's North Entrance, located on 9th Street, late summer 2005.

More information on Richard W. Bock and the sculpture can be found on Greenville College's [Richard W. Bock Sculpture Museum](#) Web page.

## Construction Equipment on the Site

If you have been watching the web cams throughout the construction project, you may have noticed a variety of construction vehicles and equipment at work. On a daily basis different types of equipment are used to move earth, handle scrap metal, haul rubble debris, hoist heavy loads, place and finish concrete, and grade surfaces as needed.



How do these machines operate? Most of this equipment utilizes hydraulic systems to function, such as backhoes and graders. To read more about hydraulic machines used in construction, go to articles on the [How Stuff Works](#) Web site.

## Central Library Quick Fact

Did you know that over 125,000 cubic yards or 12,500 truck loads of dirt were removed from the Central Library site to make way for the two-story underground parking garage?