

NEWS RELEASE

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Craftspeople Responsible for Stunning Renovations at Baltimore's Pratt Library Honored with Preservation Maryland's Preservation Artisan Award

Baltimore, MD & New York, NY (October 6, 2020) – Baltimore City's ca. 1933 Enoch Pratt Free Library Central Library is the flagship location of one of the oldest public library systems in the United States, and through the recent preservation work of many skilled hands during an extraordinary renovation and modernization project, the Library shines bright as a beacon of community, knowledge, and betterment.

For their craft and commitment, Preservation Maryland has awarded the 2020 Best of Maryland Preservation Artisan Award to EverGreene Architectural Arts and F.C. Vogt Company.

Like the work of innumerable authors housed in the Library, the renovation project itself was the collective work of dozens of skilled artisans led by EverGreene Architectural Arts based in Brooklyn, New York with several national offices and F.C. Vogt Company of Richmond, Virginia to revive this temple of learning.

Heidi Daniel, President & CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, stated, "The work of the artisans on the Enoch Pratt Central Library renovation is awe-inspiring and deserving of this Preservation Maryland award. None of this would be possible without the support of city and state lawmakers as well as the Pratt's generous private donors. The restoration of this crown jewel of the Pratt system is truly a gift to the city of Baltimore and state of Maryland."

During the massive project, craftspeople and conservators from EverGreene conducted in-situ investigations on painted and adorned surfaces, and historians referenced archival photographs for design guidance. Touching just about every surface of the 300,000 square foot library the artisan team worked throughout the building on historic materials and finishes such as plaster, millwork, and terrazzo were restored; decorative metal and painting were brought back to their original state and preserved, and historic lighting was restored or replicated. Even the custom-designed furniture original to the building was restored for reuse.

Rick Vogt, president of the F.C. Vogt Company along with 22 highly skilled restoration carpenters, woodworkers and wood finishers, restored the approximately 200,000 square feet of historic bookcases, wall paneling, and millwork in the building. While most of the work was performed onsite, items requiring more extensive restoration were transported to the Vogt studio in Virginia. In addition to restoration, various woodwork elements needed to be reproduced to precisely match the existing ones.

Both traditional and contemporary methods were employed, but always with the priority of preserving as much of the original and historic fabric of the building as possible. Additionally, the renovation was designed by Beyer Blinder Belle Architects of New York and managed by Ayers/Saint/Gross with Gilbane Building Company as the general contractor.

In addition to the tremendous scale of the renovation and the difficulty of modernizing the historic and highly-decorative 30,000 square foot structure, the project team designed the project in phases that allowed the Pratt Library to remain open much of the project and to carry on its mission as a resource serving all Marylanders.

The project totaled over \$115 million in renovations and modernizations and reopened to the public in September 2019. The public grand reopening was attended by U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, Maryland State Senator William C. “Bill” Ferguson IV, Maryland State Senator Mary Washington, Maryland State Delegate Brooke Lierman, former U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, Baltimore Mayor Bernard “Jack” Young, among others and over 1,000 citizens.

For their individual skill and stunning collective achievement, Preservation Maryland and the Campaign for Historic Trades is proud to recognize EverGreene Architectural Arts and the F.C. Vogt Company with the 2020 Best of Maryland Preservation Artisan Award.

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Preservation Maryland works to preserve and promote Maryland’s history and heritage. Founded in 19131, the organization is the state’s first, largest, and most active advocate for public history, historic preservation, and cultural landscapes. Our website is: presmd.org.

The Campaign for Historic Trades is a partnership between the National Park Service and Preservation Maryland that provides career training opportunities in the historic trades for the next generation of preservation craftspeople. The website is: historictrades.org.