

Laminated Glass Brings Daylighting and Security to Boston Courthouse



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Partner at Pei Cobb Freed, Michael D. Flynn says: "The Conoid's laminated glass façade gives an open feeling between the exterior and the interior of the building."

The courthouse is one of the oldest types of civic structure.

Architects today are using contemporary glass products both to provide an inviting community environment and deal with physical security.

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The Boston Courthouse's Conoid façade of laminated glass lets everyone inside – the judiciary and the public – enjoy the vista across the park and water to the city skyline.

The \$163 million U.S. Courthouse and Harborpark in Boston, Massachusetts by Pei Cobb Freed and Partners (completed in 1988) is built on a privileged and highly visible waterfront site.

The firm says that the driving vision behind the design is "to assert the principle that the courts are open to all". On the waterfront side, the building stands out by making the entrances to all 27 courtrooms visible from the city and harbour through an emblematically-shaped, metal-and-glass wall – the 'Conoid' – made from clear Low-E insulating laminated glass in a painted aluminum frame.

Partner at Pei Cobb Freed, Michael D. Flynn, told LGN: "We used the Low-E coating to mitigate heat loss and the laminated glass on the interior for the safety of people inside the building."

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