

## AndersonMasonDale Architects

### FAX MEMORANDUM

Date: 28 March 2000  
Project #: 97071.00  
Project: United States Courthouse Denver - Annex

To: Danny Crowder  
From: Ted Halsey

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Subject: GSA Press Release/Construction Award

Distribution: file, Curt Dale, Hans Hecker 314-421-6073

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The following building design information is based on the three building feature categories you outlined this morning for a press release prepared and issued from your office. These categories include architectural features, phased 30-year expansion and environmental features.

*The new United States Courthouse Annex in Denver is designed to fulfill expansion needs over the next 30 years for the District of Colorado. Included are 15 additional courtrooms, with offices for the Clerk of the U. S. District Court and the United States Marshals Service. The new building constitutes a physical and functional extension of the current U. S. District Court facility. It will be connected to the existing Byron Rogers United States Courthouse via a public-secure tunnel and comprises a 10-story tower and two-story pavilion.*

*The Annex will complete the downtown's four-block Federal precinct and provide a critical interface to the central business district. The iconic two-story pavilion sits on a block-long south-east oriented landscaped plaza and recalls an historic courthouse-in-the-square. The pavilion's glass-enclosed public entrance contains a stone and masonry-clad rotunda with screening stations integrated into portal openings for secure entry and occupant safety. Among the first to meet the new federal security standards, the design balances openness and security through a tiered defense strategy with layered zones that begin at the site perimeter and progress sequentially to the building core. The rotunda provides direct access to the jury assembly, public elevators and a grand stair that leads up to the second floor special proceedings courtroom. The tower includes two courtrooms per floor with magistrate courtrooms on levels 4 and 5 and district courtrooms on 6-10. The tower's exterior formally expresses court functions and circulation, and features a dramatic glass curtainwall above the plaza that provides public access to the courtrooms and unobstructed views of the federal district.*

*The tower and pavilion honor adjacent building street frontages and scale while providing safe stand-off distance from the street for security purposes and allowing for future expansion space beyond the 30-year needs. The tower and pavilion are designed to*

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*accommodate a future connected tower proposed for the site's northwest corner that will expand the Annex to a total of 22 courtrooms with additional underground parking.*

*The Annex is a showcase for sustainable design, consuming half the energy of a typical courthouse using proven technologies for 100-year life expectancy. Key "green features" include the aggressive use of daylighting and highly efficient mechanical systems. A translucent barrel-vault ceiling in the special proceedings courtroom is daylit from an overhead clerestory and all tower courtrooms borrow daylight from the public corridors through clerestories located in the back wall of each courtroom. All open office areas and courtrooms circulate underfloor displacement air through access floors systems which greatly reduce air velocities and mechanical equipment requirements. The exterior and interior finishes feature durable natural materials including stone, brick, wood and metal, and traditional cork flooring in the courtrooms.*

*The architecture for the Annex expresses dignity and permanence through its design, quality of materials and craftsmanship. It embodies the spirit and values of the Rocky Mountain region in a contextual and modern expression.*