

*P*asadena City Hall is a rectangular edifice outlining a spacious court. On the outside it measures 351 feet north and south, and 242 feet east and west. The east side is a one-story arcade. The other three sides are three stories high, with small towers at each corner and the main dome over the west entrance. The 200 plus rooms and passageways cover 170,000 square feet.

The massive circular tower structure rises perpendicularly for six stories. The fifth story is 41 feet high and pierced with four huge round arches and four smaller ones. The next story, set back a little, is 30 feet high and is also pierced with arches. Above it rises the dome, 26 feet high and 54 feet across. On top of the dome is the lantern, a column-supported cupola 41 feet high, surmounted by an urn and ball. The highest point is 206 feet above ground. The stairways have treads of Alaskan marble, with wrought iron balustrades. Cast stone is used for the fountain and wall ornaments. The roof is red Cordova clay tile, and the dome is covered with fish-scale tile, originally multicolored but now red. The lanterns of the stair towers and the big dome are sheathed in copper. The floor of the main lobby and corridors is Padre tile, and the interior woodwork is of vertical-grained white oak.



*T*he courtyard has a strong Spanish Colonial atmosphere. The focal point is the cast stone Baroque fountain, 22.5 feet tall with a basin 25 feet in diameter. Paths of crushed granite define the flower beds, and cloistered arches paved with red Padre tile surround the courtyard. California live oak trees provide shade for flower beds.

Take a look around!

How many of these designs can you find in concrete or metal at City Hall?

- Crowns
- Artichokes
- Shells
- Flowers
- Fruit
- Torches with flames
- Lions
- Dolphins

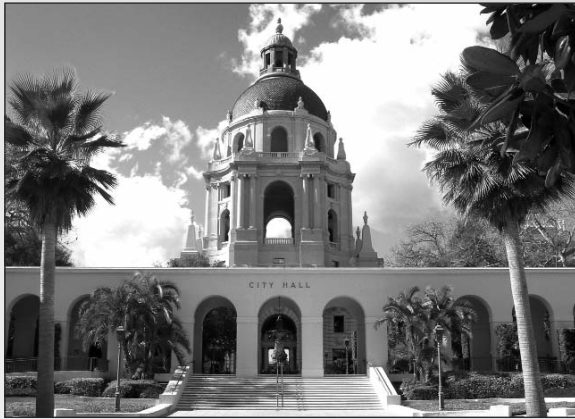


Photos by Tavo Olmos/Positive Image
and the City of Pasadena, Public Affairs Office

For more information on City Hall architecture visit
Design and Historic Preservation, Window 4 at the Permit
Center, 175 N. Garfield Avenue, Or call 626-744-4228

PASADENA CITY HALL
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA





*P*asadena City Hall is one of the finest examples of the California Mediterranean style. It is the dominant building in the Pasadena Civic Center, a complex of government, institutional and cultural buildings that epitomizes the City Beautiful movement. Since its completion on December 27, 1927, Pasadena City Hall has remained one of the most distinctive public buildings in the United States and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After a three-year retrofit and upgrade, Pasadena City Hall opened to the public in May 2007 amid much fanfare. It is now a green building, having earned Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system.

An official building of imposing beauty, massive yet graceful, and suited to a land of flowers and sunshine is what the Pasadena Board of City Directors, now called City Council, had in mind when it undertook to build the present City Hall.

The way had been prepared in 1923, when the Pasadena residents passed a bond issue of \$3.5 million to establish a Civic Center. The Chicago firm of



Bennett, Parsons and Frost was commissioned to draw up a Civic Center plan. The planners established Garfield Avenue as an axis, on which City Hall was to be the central element, with Pasadena Public Library on the north and Pasadena Civic Auditorium on the south. Also included in the original design were the Pasadena Police Department, Pasadena



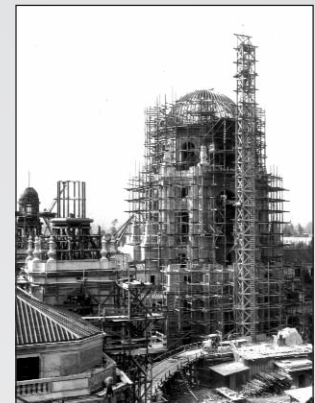
Municipal Court, YMCA, YWCA, Southern California Gas Company, and United State Post Office.

Over the years the new Pasadena Police Department and County Court buildings have been added. The YMCA building is now Centennial Place, a single-room-occupancy apartment complex, and the Southern California Gas building is now the city of Pasadena Permit Center.

The cost for building Pasadena City Hall was \$1.3 million. For the final design the San Francisco architectural firm of Bakewell and Brown turned to the style of 16th century Italian architect, Andrea Palladio, who admired the Roman architect Vitruvius, as did the California mission-building Fathers. Palladio represented the serene, classical style of the early Renaissance, in contrast to the Gothic of medieval times and the rococo style of the later Renaissance.

Three famous domed structures show his influence — Santa Maria della Salute in Venice, Hotel des Invalides in Paris, and St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Without directly imitating, Pasadena City Hall is related to them all.

Bakewell and Brown had a Palladian purity of taste but approached the style freely, gracing their walls with a moderate amount of ornamentation in the form of lion heads and garlands and scrolls bearing the



official crown and key. Their dome is solidly based and commanding, yet graceful and airy. They thought of sun-warmed buff against blue skies and greenery, with an accent of red tiles and shady cloistered walks, a garden and splashing fountains. They also planned for all the rooms a busy city administration would need for years to come.