

## Property History

The Hudson County Courthouse, or Justice William J. Brennan Courthouse, is a six story building located in Jersey City, New Jersey. This structure was designed by Hugh Roberts in the Beaux-Arts architectural style and built with granite between 1906 and 1910.

## Project Description

Grand Light replicated historic luminaires for an additional courtroom that was being added in the building. The replication included very ornate, cast bronze chandeliers, wall sconces, and desk lamps that were to be mounted on the judge's bench. The project began with detailed drawings outlining all distinct features of these originals, which also includes a detailed mold breakout. In addition to providing replicated fixtures, Grand Light was also making new molds which were going to be stored at the courthouse should they choose to have more done in the future.

After the fixtures were documented, each component is removed and molded. These wax molds replicate the intricate detailing, shape, and size of each component. During this phase of the project, any deficiencies in the original fixtures castings are able to be corrected. Upon completion of the molds, a wax pattern is pulled from the production mold. Each wax copy is then chased by using a heated metal tool to rub out the marks that show the parting line where the pieces of the mold came together. The wax is dressed to hide any imperfections in the patterns. These patterns were then encompassed in a layer of wax, known as spruing, to create a ceramic shell around the mold. Once the ceramic shell has been allowed enough time to harden, the shell is flashed, which involves heating the wax mold until the inside melts and seeps out leaving the ceramic shell hollow. Melted bronze was then be poured into each shell to create a casting for each replicated component.

The surface of each component is cleaned and media blasted in preparation for hot patina which is formulated to match the patina of the original luminaires. After the application of the hot patina, the surfaces of each element were hand burnished to create an iridescent, three-dimensional look. To preserve this detailing and to promote the longevity of this custom finish, a lacquer top coat was applied to all surfaces. Once the components are cured, they were assembled, crated, and delivered to the courthouse by Grand Light personnel.

## Client

City of Jersey City

## Client Project Managers

Nick Burgagni, SMBA Construction

## Date Awarded

2015

## Completion Date

2016

## Project Webpage

<https://grandlight.com/portfolio/hudson-county-courthouse/>

