

Jefferson Memorial

Location:
Washington, D.C.

Application:
Parks and Recreation

Install Type:
Retrofit

Products:
Smooth Aluminum Flush Doors (SL-16)

Overview
In the fall of 2021, the National Park Service started work to transform the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., erasing decades of wear, tear, and weathering from the nearly 80-year-old neoclassical landmark. Renovations also included long-needed structural repairs in the first of a two-phase modernization effort.

The second phase focused on improving the visitor experience by revamping the memorial's 2,500-square-foot lower-level exhibit space. That also included accessibility upgrades. NPS needed more than just standard restroom doors for their visitor center.

Challenge
From the start, the specified doors proved anything but ordinary. Project specifications called for a custom design—routed door profiles at depths that were impossible to manufacture for most. Entryways also needed to complement the historic setting while withstanding the daily wear of thousands of visitors. On top of that, COVID-era challenges added additional complexity to the project.

The Solution
Given the project's custom nature and architect's vision, Comdor, a commercial door, frame, and hardware distributor in the Mid-Atlantic Region of the U.S., turned to Special-Lite.

Together, all project stakeholders, including those from Special-Lite's Engineering Team, worked to deliver a solution that balanced design, quality, durability, and stayed within budget.

Multiple custom samples showed finish options and routing at various depths and where they intersected to ensure all needs were met.

Packaging and freight were handled with care. The doors arrived pristine, installed smoothly, and performed as designed.

"The product showed up on time, looked great, and has held up under incredible public use," said Donny Scanlon, Vice President at Comdor.







Outcome
Today, the Jefferson Memorial's restroom doors quietly do their job in one of the busiest landmarks in the country, serving nearly three million people a year. Despite the challenges, Special-Lite delivered a durable, custom solution that exceeded expectations where other manufacturers couldn't compete.

"They're bathroom doors—but they're bathroom doors at the Jefferson Memorial. That makes them special," Kyle Erickson, Project Executive, Grunley Construction Company.

This was Comdor and Grunley's first experience working with Special-Lite, and their feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

More than just restroom doors, these products represent Special-Lite's ability to bring creative engineering, custom design, and reliable execution to historic, high-profile projects.

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