

Elevating Transparency: The Stunning Glass Staircases of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Discover how the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's headquarters was transformed with striking glass staircases that symbolize transparency and modern design.

Architect:

RTKL Associates, Inc.

General Contractor:

Grunley Construction
Company, Inc.

Owner:

United States Government

Products:

GlassWalk™ Stair Treads

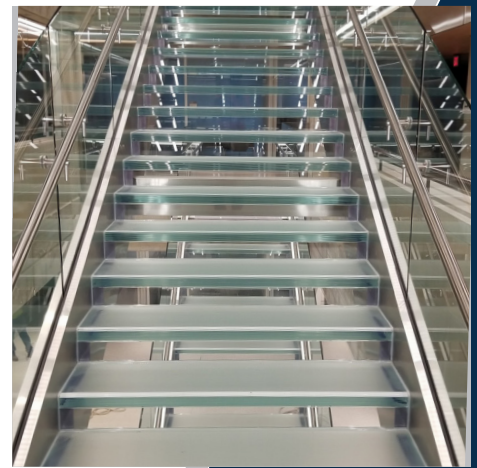
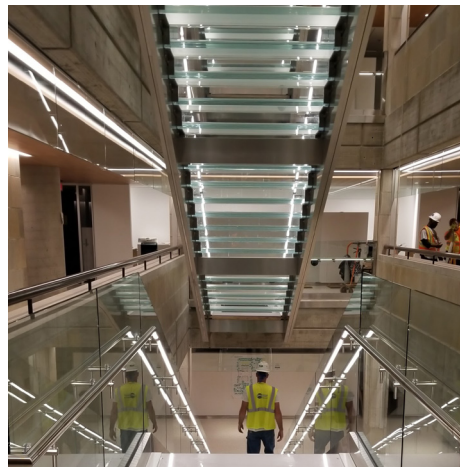
Opportunity

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a key U.S. government agency tasked with consumer protection in the financial sector, moved into a new headquarters at 1700 G Street NW, Washington, D.C. As part of the renovation process, which included transforming the building to meet modern public accessibility and building codes, the design vision featured grand, transparent glass staircases. These staircases were a focal point of the project, requiring a unique combination of aesthetics and safety, while ensuring they aligned with the functional needs of a large, high-traffic government building. The challenge was to integrate cutting-edge design with the agency's need for security and durability, while also creating a space that fostered a welcoming and professional environment.

Solution

Grunley Construction Company, in collaboration with RTKL Associates, chose GBA Architectural Products to provide and install the specialized glass components for the staircases. GBA supplied five-ply laminated glass stair treads and landings, each 3/8" thick with a translucent inner layer and contrasting safety strips. The risers were made from 1/2" laminated optically clear glass, ensuring both transparency and strength. The installation of these glass elements combined with stainless steel components provided a modern, visually striking element that allowed natural light to flow freely through the space. The design also incorporated custom-engineered structural support to ensure the safety and stability of the glass staircases while maintaining their aesthetic appeal.

[View](#) more Consumer Financial Protection Bureau photos in our website gallery.



Outcome

The result was a dramatic, fully transparent staircase system that not only enhanced the building's design but also improved functionality by providing a clear, open movement throughout the space. The combination of glass treads, risers, and landings created a grand, inviting feature in the heart of the CFPB's headquarters, representing transparency and openness—a key message of the agency's mission. The successful completion of this high-profile project showcased GBA's ability to deliver custom, high-quality architectural glass solutions for significant government and commercial buildings.



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