

Jacob K. Javits Convention Center - New York City, New York, USA.

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The Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, commonly referred to as the “Javits Center,” is a transformational building located in New York City. The Javits Center is transformational because it broke outside of the traditional ideas of what a convention center looks like.

Started in 1979 and completed in 1986, the Javits Center “remains the largest and most important public building undertaken in New York City in more than half a century” according to Pei Cobb Freed & Partners. The building was instrumental in turning around the economic decline that New York City saw in the seventies, leading to a safer and stronger New York. It continues to be an economic driver for the economy of New York, bringing “blockbuster” events to the city.

Not wanting the Javits Center to be a windowless box, it was designed with an exposed structural system that “harmonized the glass, steel, and concrete elements.” A space frame system was used creating a unified rhythm throughout the building. Likewise, the space frame is able to span large areas with fewer interior supports. Precast and Cast-in-place concrete were used not only for support, but to also “heighten the dramatic impact of the space.” Furthermore, concepts used in the construction of long span bridges were used to create the concrete upper deck that supports large moving trucks.

The Javits Center is also a great example of multi-use space. The building includes offices, shops, dining, meeting rooms, and service areas. All of these are shaped around the large glassed in lobby.

All of these elements have contributed to the Javits center still being the busiest convention center in the United States after nearly forty years.

References

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