

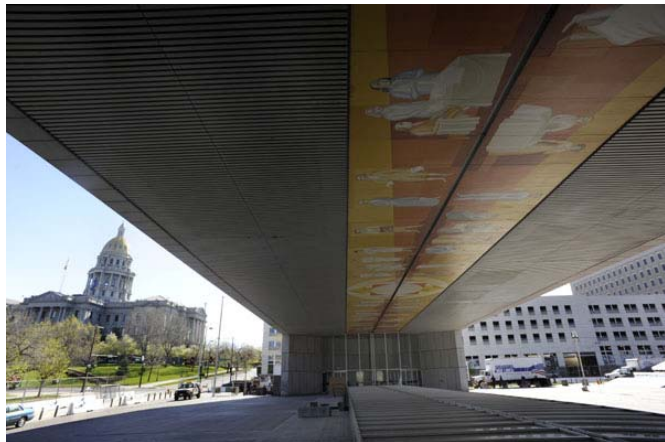
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Massive di Benedetto mural painted on asbestos board

By Tom McGhee
The Denver Post

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The mural by Angelo di Benedetto "Justice Through the Ages," on the overhang of the Colorado State Judicial Building, on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. (Diego James Robles, The Denver Post)

When one of the panels holding Angelo di Benedetto's mural snapped as it was being removed from the Colorado State Judicial Building workers got a big surprise.

"Everybody said, 'wait a minute, this isn't wood.' The panels are on a material that is 30 percent asbestos," said Bill Mosher, managing director of developer Trammel Crow, who is managing the courthouse project.

The judicial building is coming down to make way for a new courts complex. The asbestos is non-friable, meaning it poses no risk unless panels are broken, Mosher said. "After lots of discussion and talk with attorneys and the state Health Department we decided we are going to continue to remove it and try to store it in a safe manner. If it comes into a

friable condition we will have to dispose of it."

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Detail of the mural by Angelo de Benedetto, "Justice Through the Ages," on the overhang of the Colorado State Judicial Building, on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. (Diego James Robles, The Denver Post)

The work site will have to be surrounded with material to keep any asbestos that does get knocked off from migrating, and workers will receive special training to complete the removal, Mosher said.

The hitch shouldn't delay the demolition project, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of August.

Several museums have turned down the mural "Justice Through the Ages," which will be placed in storage. If anyone decides later that they want the mural, which measures 20 feet by 150 feet, they will have to assume liability for the asbestos.

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