

# SWAMPLOT

## The Street, Restaurant, and Cafe Changes Coming to Bank of America Center Once the Secret Building Inside It Is Exhumed





**NEW RENDERINGS** released by Sydness Architects show the **street-level changes** planned for the **Bank of America Center**, which sits across the street from Jones Plaza on one side and **Phillip Johnson's** other notable downtown office tower, Pennzoil Place, on the other. Last fall, building owner M-M Properties announced plans to remove the mummified 2-story **Western Union building** that had been [encapsulated](#) within the Bank of America Center's northeast quadrant since 1983 (see photo above).

Windows and doors are shown added to the skyscraper along Capitol and Louisiana streets — in 2 of the walls that once entombed the telegram building. The rendering at top shows the reconfigured view from outside Jones Hall, with **new 2-story openings** facing Capitol St.

**Only one new street-level entrance** is clearly shown in that rendering, however: the awninged door to a **new restaurant** along Louisiana St. That restaurant is planned for a portion of the former Western Union building's ground floor in the northeast corner of the Bank of America Center:

\* \* \*



The **glass door** on the left in the view above is the restaurant's **main entrance** on Louisiana St.

The existing corridor shown in the photos below passes by the **banking hall** (for which [separate renovations](#) are planned) on the way to the skyscraper's lobby:





The Napoleon red granite facade on the north side of that entrance corridor, which walls off the Western Union building, is to be cracked open so that a **new cafe** can be inserted into the space along the hallway:



An **additional level** will be inserted **above** the restaurant and cafe, but below the **mezzanine** office level that currently sits atop the encased Western Union building.

Work digesting the Western Union space is scheduled to begin **early this year**, ahead of Bank of America's planned **departure** from its namesake structure in 2019. A second — and perhaps more dramatic — phase of renovation, which will add office space over the banking hall portion of the lobby, is planned after the bank moves out.

Previously on Swamplot: [Cubicles, Mezzanines, Great Glass Elevator To Fill Philip Johnson's Grand Downtown Banking Hall Airspace As Part of Renovation; For Its Next Trick, Bank of America Center Will Completely Digest the Secret Building It Swallowed 35 Years Ago](#)

*Renderings: Sydness Architects. Photos: [Bank of America Center \(corridor\)](#); [Hines \(lobby\)](#); [Mary Ann Sullivan \(exterior\)](#)*