THE FACTS PAGE'S DESIGNER LIST

Who made what?

A sculptor, an engineer, an architect, and a newspaper that finished the pedestal.

The National Park Service facts page names four official roles: Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi as sculptor, Richard Morris Hunt as architect of the pedestal, Eiffel and Company as engineer of the statue, and General Charles P. Stone as engineer of the pedestal. When the statue was rebuilt on the island, the first piece to go up was Eiffel's iron framework.

Role, as the facts page gives it	Name
Sculptor	Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi
Architect (pedestal)	Richard Morris Hunt
Engineer (statue)	Eiffel and Company
Engineer (pedestal)	General Charles P. Stone

The framework, named on the creating page

On the reassembly, the creating page says: "The first piece of the Statue to be reconstructed was Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel's iron framework." That is the same firm's work, named there for the piece that went up first.

The idea for a gift — two official spellings

The creating page says that in 1865 "a French political intellectual and anti-slavery activist named Edouard de Laboulaye proposed that a statue representing liberty be built for the United States." The facts page, updated later, says "French thinker Édouard de Laboulaye and sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi proposed the gift to celebrate the centennial of the United States, the end of the American Civil War, and friendship between the United States and France." The accent is not silently copied from one page onto the other.

Torch, tablet, shackles

The facts page: "Lady Liberty is holding a torch in her right hand, representing enlightenment. In her left arm, she cradles a tablet reading 'July IV, MDCCLXXVI' (July 4, 1776), a reference to the Declaration of Independence." "Broken shackles and chains lie at her feet, symbolizing the abolition of slavery."

The statistics page records the tablet as reading, in Roman numerals, "July 4, 1776" — "the date of American Independence. (JULY IV MDCCLXXVI)." It also says the current torch "was a replacement of the original and installed in 1986," copper "covered in 24k. gold leaf," and that the original torch was moved to the pedestal lobby and, in 2018, to the "Torch Gallery" in the Statue of Liberty Museum.

The sculptor's name for the statue, the facts page says, is La Liberté éclairant le monde, "Liberty Enlightening the World." Emma Lazarus wrote "The New Colossus" on 2 November 1883, "as part of a fundraising campaign for the statue's construction."

A short quiz

1. Who does the facts page name as architect of the pedestal?
2. What date is written on the tablet, in the form the facts page quotes?
3. In which year does the statistics page say the current torch was installed?

Answers. 1. Richard Morris Hunt. 2. July IV, MDCCLXXVI. 3. 1986.

Sources: National Park Service, "Statue of Liberty Facts," last updated 20 August 2026; "Statue Statistics," last updated 30 December 2024; "Creating the Statue of Liberty," last updated 25 March 2025. Checked 17 November 2026.