



BROWN

**Boldly Brown:
Campaign for
Academic
Enrichment**

**Contact Information:
Brown University
Box 1893
Providence RI 02912
Telephone: 401.863.2374
Fax: 401.863.3301**

The Faunce House Renovations

A Case for Support

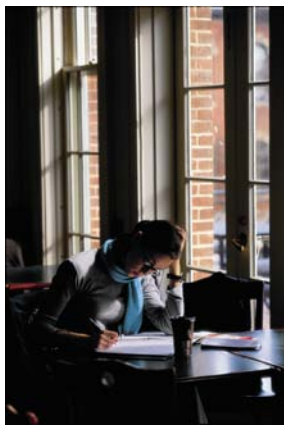


Faunce House: Re-imagining the Heart of the Campus

Faunce House is one of the University's most important and cherished buildings. Constructed in 1904 courtesy of John D. Rockefeller, it was originally envisioned as an area "devoted primarily to the social and religious uses of the students." It was expanded in the early 1930s thanks to John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (Class of 1897), and named, at his request, to honor Brown's ninth President, William Herbert Perry Faunce. This expansion and renovation, which added dining facilities and a theatrical space, ensured that Faunce House would become among the most important student facilities on campus. The building was rededicated in 1989 following another significant renovation to update the building and create improved spaces for students.



The site of Faunce House—with its iconic arch serving as a gateway onto the College Green—is ideal for supporting student life. During the day, students relax on the south-facing stairs overlooking the green and converge in the Blue Room for coffee and conversation. At night, they gather inside for study groups, rehearsals, and social events. The location of the building and its long tradition as a center for student social gatherings make it one of the most highly-trafficked and vibrant spots on campus.



Despite these attributes, Faunce House is not able to meet the many demands placed on it by today's students, nor is it optimally designed to facilitate social interactions. The interior spaces are typically closed off by small rooms and narrow corridors; the public spaces need refurbishment, and the meeting spaces clamor for updated equipment and furnishings. The spacious Leung Gallery, for example, is empty for much of the day. When the gallery is in use—often in the evenings by dance and martial arts groups—it cuts off access between the two wings of the building's second floor. And, since the gallery was never designed as a practice space, it lacks the mirrors necessary for dance and a proper floor for martial arts.

Therefore, after nearly two decades, it is necessary to re-imagine these interior spaces. The concurrent relocation of some student resource and service offices to nearby J. Walter Wilson creates new opportunities in Faunce; as a result, the revised structure will have an immediate and major impact on the entire community. Brown asks for your support in transforming this historic edifice, one viewed by many as *the* campus center at the University.

The Vision



Thanks to the generosity of Stephen Robert '62—Brown's Chancellor from 1998-2007—and several anonymous donors, the University is poised to undertake a major \$20 million renovation of Faunce House. When completed, the new Stephen Robert '62 Campus Center at Faunce House will add significantly to the quality of education and student life at Brown.

Plans are almost finalized for a Campus Center that will feature a new food venue, space for a variety of student organizations, informal gathering areas, a welcome center, meeting spaces fostering interaction and collaboration; and an upgrade of the building systems to today's standards. Updated furnishings will enhance usefulness and comfort. Additionally, Faunce will be more wheelchair-accessible and have increased natural lighting. Though many aspects of the plans — from the new glass entryway in Faunce Arch to the modular armchairs of the proposed dining area — are modern in style, “historic parts (of the building) are being renovated to look historic,” said Stephen Maiorisi, vice president for Facilities Management. Ceilings, woodwork, fireplaces and historic wainscoting will be restored throughout the building.

Although the Center is not scheduled for completion until December 2010, initial construction is now underway. A new basement event space in the former mailroom site should be complete by September 2009; the Blue Room Café will temporarily relocate to the Solomon Center Lobby while the rest of the building is being restored during the 2009-10 school year.

“It is an honor to have my name on this historic building at Brown — one that has served as the symbolic heart of campus for so many years,” says Robert. “It is my ultimate vision for the Campus Center to foster a shared sense of community at the University and provide students with an inviting space where they can enjoy the Brown experience outside of the classroom.”

The Boston-based architectural firm Schwartz/Silver is designing the Center. Founded in 1980, Schwartz/Silver Architects has a diverse and site-specific body of work, specializing in the renovation of historically significant structures and the construction of modern buildings. Its projects regularly earn top awards, including six American Institute of Architecture National Honor Awards. Whatever the type of construction, their design method remains the same: a diligent and thoughtful working with the particular circumstances of a project and the human needs they reflect.

Besides Brown University, Schwartz/Silver's educational clients include Cornell University, Princeton University, Trinity College, The University of Virginia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Louisiana State University. Princeton's recently-designed Andlinger Center for the Humanities required dramatic interior renovations of two 19th-century buildings while maintaining their outer facades; Andlinger was hailed as a major success when it opened in 2004. Mark Schatz, a principal at Schwartz/Silver and the project architect in charge of Faunce, believes that the two sites possess many of the same challenges and many of the same opportunities. In particular, Schatz is drawn to the building's arch: “Almost every student who takes a class during the day has to walk through the archway at some point,” he explains.

Conclusion

The renovation of Faunce House is slated as a \$20 million project. Your leadership gift of \$50,000 or more will make a significant difference to Brown students today and in the coming years. In addition, your generosity will ensure that your name or that of a loved one will become a permanent part of this historic structure.