1995

The University of Michigan Law School Walking Tour

University of Michigan Law School

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## REFLECTIONS ON THE LAW QUADRANGLE ...................................... 15
This walking tour guide will help to familiarize you with the history of these fine buildings, with some of their architectural features and, to a lesser degree, with the people who made the Quadrangle what it is today. This text owes much to the authors of earlier writings about the Law School. Italics will be used for quotations from them, and attribution will be given at the end of the text. In this way various voices of the Law School can resonate in this booklet, as various aspects of American law echo in the architecture itself.

This booklet cannot be exhaustive. In addition to the broad architectural forms, and the functional amenities . . .

There is a vast and interesting array of detailed design to be observed . . . This takes the form of historical figures, caricatures of men and laws, state and university insignia, and heraldry, and a great amount of merely decorative work, done in stone, glass and wood. So many and varied are these that they provide a never failing interest to those living in the Lawyers Club as well as to visitors. It is always possible to discover features about the place which have not been observed before, even by the residents. ▲

INTRODUCTION

The Impact of the Law Quadrangle

Of all the law schools in the United States, the University of Michigan is perhaps the most beautiful. One might say that the exquisite physical facility of the Law School is one of the less important benefits of attending the University of Michigan. Certainly, the faculty, one’s fellow students, and the extensive library are all more significant for their contribution to one’s learning. Yet as one studies, matures, and forms friendships, one is subtly and undeniably affected by one’s surroundings. And the Law Quad, as it surrounds students each day for three years, instills emotions that will echo through the rest of their lives. Sometimes awe-inspiring, sometimes humorous and endearing, the entire Quadrangle fits together, a well designed whole intended to last for centuries, to carry forward centuries of learning from the past, and to uplift the discipline of legal education in the future.

In the words of one emeritus professor, who has lived and studied around the world, “One’s surroundings have a tremendous impact on the frame of your soul. This (law school) is not only aesthetically beautiful, but it reflects an old and very good tradition of the law, of the origin of American law, going back to the English establishments which were equally appealing and attractive, but
very elitist, and limited to a very small group. But the good things, such as continuity, which is important in law, are reflected in the style. I don't think there is anything like this anywhere in the world.”

It is to William W. Cook’s enormous generosity that we owe the basic quadrangle. Subsequent generations have followed in his philanthropic footsteps and expanded, renovated, and improved the Law School’s buildings and grounds so that they continue to be not only the most aesthetically pleasing but also among the most brilliantly functional Law Schools in the nation.

II
The Conception of the Quadrangle

According to Law School legend as retold by Elizabeth Brown, author of Legal Education at Michigan 1859-1959, it was known in the early 1920s that Cook was contemplating a gift to the University of a men’s dormitory and other assistance to the Law School. The law faculty conferred. Henry Bates, then Dean of the Law School, went to New York with his brief case filled with preliminary plans for four possible buildings: a Lawyers Club and adjacent dining hall, a connecting dorm, a library, and an administration-classroom building. And he was summoned into Cook’s library and told to sit down at the huge library table and show the plans. According to the legend, Bates was nervous and instead of pulling out the plan for one building, he spilled all four across the table. And Cook took one look at them, and he said, “Bates, what do you want? A quadrangle?” Bates, a prudent man, said, “Yes, Mr. Cook.”

Of course, the history recorded by Bates himself is substantially more prosaic:

during negotiations and discussions covering three days with Mr. Cook, his architects, and the Law School representative, there were developed, and tentatively agreed to, the outlines of a fairly complete plan . . . Mr. Cook, in fact, during this three-day discussion, generously agreed to a four-building project and to a very great development of the plans for research and graduate work. ▲

III
The Architectural Character of the Quadrangle

Many who visit and admire the Law Quadrangle assume that architects York and Sawyer modelled it on some existing complex of buildings at Oxford or Cambridge. While the Law School’s buildings are in the tradition of English Gothic used at other institutions, they are unique and very much more varied in style and use of ornamental detail than is apparent to the casual observer. The buildings are not only original designs but also represent styles which span the fifteenth, sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.
While the Legal Research Library, Hutchins Hall, and the Dining Hall make use of English Gothic features which prevailed in the fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries, the Lawyers Club building and the two dormitories have a late Tudor or Jacobean character. They reflect Italian and Flemish influences which did not affect English architecture until the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.*

The windows, the buttresses and the buttress-face panels of the Legal Research Building and the dining hall have their origin in the earliest of these periods. The windows with their single horizontal transoms and vertical mullions, the vertical line being carried into the tracery at the window head, may be classed as English Perpendicular... The fine hammer-beam roof of the dining hall may be attributed both to Perpendicular and to Tudor influence. As inheritances from this latter period one may point to the four-centered door arches in the dining hall and the lounge, the groups of rectangular chimney stalks placed corner to corner and the oriel windows of the dormitories.... In both Tudor and Elizabethan architecture, — the latter having brought us into the early Renaissance, — the decorated plaster ceiling, like that in the lounge was used. The Renaissance brought other features, as for example, the steeply-sloped slate roofs, the balustraded parapet along the roof edge of the lounge and the South University Avenue side of the dormitories, and the wall arcade on the eastern front of the lounge. Other elements from the same period include the balconies above the windows, the use of Classical Orders in the entrance to the Quadrangle through the dormitories and of full and broken pediments above the entry doorways.▲

Hutchins Hall, which sits between the Legal Research Building and the Lawyers Club, is "essentially a twentieth century structure,"... but is ornamented with wall buttresses, pointed doorways, and carvings which "make it blend with the other buildings in the complex."

The diversity in architectural style of the Quadrangle's buildings is echoed in the rich variety of its decorative detail. Some features are purely ornamental, adding pomp, solemnity, and aesthetic pleasure to the experience of entering the Quadrangle. Other decoration on the buildings is symbolic, designed to instruct the observer and convey William W. Cook's intentions in donating the funds for the buildings. Still other details, like the Quadrangle's many carved heads, gnomes, and painted glass medallions, are satiric in intent. They offer a special delight to the spectator who takes the time to appreciate their humorous incongruity. Many of the faces and figures on the buildings good naturedly poke fun at... the University's presidents, as well as at law students. Jolting anachronisms are part of the entertainment,... with law students carrying tennis rackets and stony gargoyles peering out from behind horn-rimmed glasses....

The satiric ornaments encourage students to recognize human foibles and failings as lawyers must. Their effect is counterbalanced, however, by the overall aura of the Quadrangle,... the satiric gnomes and heads relieve in miniature the Quadrangle's ponderous character without disrupting its atmosphere of reverence and hushed dignity.★
THE WALKING TOUR

I

The Dining Hall and Lawyers Club

Begin in the center of the Quadrangle facing the Legal Research Building (the library). The landscaping in front of the Legal Research Building and Hutchins Hall was embellished between 1987-89 thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Sperling, Jr., JD ’40. On your right is the Dining Hall and Lawyers Club.

The exterior wall is laid up with seam-faced granite of varied colors from the Weymouth quarries in Massachusetts and is trimmed with Indiana limestone. The roof of the club is covered with a heavy slate, of varied sizes and colors, from the quarries of Vermont.

Enter the Dining Hall through the east doors which open onto the Quadrangle.

The dining hall interior is 34 feet wide, 138 1/2 feet long, and 49 feet high, it is in the collegiate Gothic style. It is built of solid masonry construction of the most permanent character. The interior has an oak paneled wainscot ten feet, six inches high and the wall above is limestone. (The great ceiling is carved from old oak ship timbers . . . ▲) The roof is supported by nine structural oak trusses which are appropriately decorated with carvings of eminent jurists, (Among those represented are Solon, Justinian, Grotius, Blackstone, Coke, Marshall, Webster, Story and Cooley. ▲) The floor is laid in a design of gray Missouri and Tennessee marble.

The large Gothic windows are filled with varigated glass, imported from England, which gives the room a very pleasant softly lighted effect. The end windows' upper segments contain panels representing the signs of the zodiac. The lower panels have more varied allusions, from tempus fugit to e pluribus unum. In the west window is the shield of the University of Michigan and in the east window the shield of the State of Michigan.

Return to the Quadrangle by way of the east doors; turn left and left again. On your right you will see the covered walkway known as the Cloister—one of the more striking spots in the Quad—the sloping roof of which is supported by Doric columns and low arches. A decorative low stone railing which is broken at intervals by the gable windows of the guest rooms extends along the eaves of the lounge roof.

Enter the Lawyers Club. On your right is the Lounge.

The floor of the hallways is of brown Welsh tile, as are the floors of the stairs and halls of the dormitories. The administrative offices, and the faculty dining room—with its rich furnishings and ornate fireplace—are just off the lobby. ▲

To your right is the Lounge, largely Renaissance in style. The floor is of wide, white oak planks fastened by dowels. Thirty-four feet wide and eighty-four feet long, this room has a plaster vaulted ceiling with an over-all design in flat relief. It has an oak paneled wainscot 11 feet, 6 inches high. The carved mantel is carried out in a consistent style and further charm is given the
room by the circular bay window, with its metal casements and cathedral glass. It is furnished with comfortable and appropriate furniture, in keeping with the general character of the room.

The Lawyers Club Lounge was completely refurbished, replastered and renovated in 1987 with funds provided by alumni. Mr. Cook's tapestries which traditionally hung in the Lawyers Club currently hang in the Faculty Common Room in Hutchins Hall for security reasons.

Eight special rooms with connecting bath rooms are provided in the second story of the club for visiting club members. The rooms are finished with rough plaster walls and ceilings and are attractively furnished. An oak paneled writing room and library are also provided in the second story.

On the lower level are restrooms, mailboxes, and a game room.

II

The Quadrangle and Arches

Exit the Lawyers Club onto State Street through the doors on your right as you leave the Lounge. Outside you may read over the entrance to the building, "The character of the legal profession depends on the character of the law schools. The character of the law schools forecasts the future of America."

Walk to your right around the corner of State Street to South University. Turn right and walk along South University. Over the entrance to the first arch is the inscription, "The Supreme Court Preserver of the Constitution, Guardian of our Liberties and Greatest of all Tribunals." You may wish to stop and enjoy the set of figures carved in the first arch. These four characters are somewhat obscure, perhaps representing ancient periods of history. One is clearly a Roman, and one holds an axe.

Continue along South University, past the second arch to the third arch, near the corner of Tappan Street. The quote above this arch tells us "Upon the Bar depends the constitutional government and the perpetuity of the republic itself." Here, the twelve figures represent lighter aspects of life in the era in which they were carved. A football player grimaces, while a stone mason appears about to strike the building. A third figure carries a tennis racket. Two characters may represent food and drink, with their wheat sheaves and hanging bunch of grapes. And just before entering the quadrangle, in the last upper right corner is a somber figure with his sickle. Perhaps the implicit message to students is Carpe diem. Student life may seem interminable but it too will pass sooner than one thinks.

Return through the arch and back to the left retracing your steps along South University to the central and largest arch. Here the gargoyles are entirely different from those in the other two arches. Each of these carefully sculpted figures is a specific person associated with the history of the University of Michigan, although not necessarily the Law School itself. One of the two clean-shaven
figures on the right is commonly thought to be Henry Bates, Dean of the Law School from 1910-1939.

Enter the Quadrangle through this arch and enjoy the full panorama of the Quadrangle, with the impressive Legal Research Building straight ahead.

To your right, the Lawyers Club, with its dining hall, lounge, and guest rooms, was completed in 1924, along with the student residence hall along South University Avenue. In 1930, an additional dormitory, the John P. Cook Building, was completed along the eastern side of the quadrangle (on your left). At that time, every modern convenience had been embodied in this structure. Sufficient closet space is found in each room. Showers of the latest type are found in the bathrooms. Each room has an outside view and the typical suite has several large windows allowing sunlight to flood the apartments with light and cheer.

In section "N" is the John Poller Cook Memorial Room, in memory of William Cook's father. From the upper corners of stone above each of its windows peer out a set of unusually expressive faces, some in agony, others with glee, one in stony silence staring blankly through round framed glasses. The room displays a full length portrait of John Cook by the artist Henry Caro-Delvaille. The walls of this room are paneled with carved English oak reaching to the ceiling. In the center of the east wall is a large fireplace of white Indiana limestone with a Levanto marble base. There are nine stained glass windows, eight of which are topped with designs symbolic of various branches of the law, the center one bearing the coat of arms of Michigan and an inscription with the name "John Poller Cook." ▲

Please angle to your right toward the large dining hall windows and continue forward and left to Hutchins Hall in the southwest corner of the Quadrangle.

III Hutchins Hall

Hutchins Hall, named after Harry B. Hutchins, Professor of Law from 1884 to 1887, Dean of the Law School from 1895 to 1920, and President of the University from 1910 to 1920, was opened to classes in the fall of 1933, marking the completion of the Law Quadrangle. Like the Legal Research Building, its architecture is a departure from that of the Lawyers Club Building, but it follows the latter in much of its detail. The high classroom ceilings and the large windows required to light the rooms made it necessary to adopt a large-scale treatment for this building, but similar stone work harmonizes the structure with other units of the group...

The visitor who stands in the main vestibule must at once be impressed with the dignity of (the) surroundings. One will learn quickly from inscriptions and symbolic stained glass designs in the windows to what purpose this building is dedicated. High up on the stone walls of the vestibule, at the junction of the corridors, appear
several incised inscriptions, "Honeste vivere alterum non laedere suum cuique tribuere" (One should live honestly, not hurt one another, and give each person his just due), "Fiat justitia ruat coelum" (Let justice be done, even if the heavens fall) and "The life of the law has not been logic. It has been experience." ▲

In this entrance from the Quadrangle between the two sets of doors is found a quotation from the will of William W. Cook, setting forth his reasons for donating so much to the Law School. Although fewer historical antecedents reverberate in the architecture of Hutchins Hall than in the rest of the Quadrangle, the first floor is full of fascinating detail. Each heating register is covered with an ornate metal grating. In the railing of the stairway to your left descending to the basement of the Legal Research Building are carved brass scales and law books, the ten commandments and a judge. In the four corners supporting the ceiling at each of the entrances to the building are symbols of the law and of study: a quill, a key, a bewigged judge.

Following straight ahead from the Law Quad entrance, you are immediately surrounded by reminders of the solemnity of the law (through Latin quotes in the stained glass scrolls) and of the humor that can come from viewing life through legally trained eyes. Who but a first year law student with her mind reeling from Criminal Law would see U-M football players like those in one the fourth cartoon on the right and think, "Mayhem"? Such gentle jibes at the self-importance of a legal framework are found in many of the cartoon windows, prepared for Hutchins Hall by an unknown artist in the 1930s.

To your right you can enjoy a view of the inner courtyard. This bright spot is used heavily, weather permitting, for everything from solitary studies to classes to occasional student or faculty weddings. Continuing down the hall, one comes to Room 150 on the left. (If you were to exit the building through the doors straight ahead onto Monroe Street you would find curious wrought iron creatures looking outward from the steps outside.)

The first two floors of Hutchins Hall are primarily classrooms and seminar rooms. The third floor consists of administrative and faculty offices. The fourth floor, formerly the home of the Michigan Law Review and the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (and earlier still home of the Michigan Bar Journal), now contains additional faculty and administrative offices and a seminar room.

ROOM BY ROOM DESCRIPTION:

- Room 150 is largely unchanged since construction. It displays a collection of photographs of alumni who have served on federal courts. It seats 172.

- Room 138 displays a collection of photographs of international alumni. Lawyers from China, France, Peru, Venezuela, and Thailand are among those represented, along with American alumni who served in foreign posts. It seats 78.
• Room 132 displays a collection of photographs of former faculty. It seats 67.

• The Squires, Sanders and Dempsey Classroom (Room 120) was completely renovated in 1990, with new lights installed in 1991. This work, including the handsome paneling concealing the blackboard when not needed, and the limestone arch, was made possible by donations from the alumni of that firm. It is the first classroom renovation fully funded by alumni (not law firm) donations. The architects were Quinn, Evans. It seats 110.

• The Linde, Thompson, Kohn and Van Dyke Seminar Room (Room 118), previously the Alumni Room, was renovated in 1985 with gifts from Herbert Kohn and Thomas C. Van Dyke. The pressing need for seminar rooms due to the expanded curriculum necessitated its conversion from its former use. It seats 20 people.

• Room 116 was renovated in 1978 with University money. The renovation was designed by Ann Arbor architect, David Osler, to facilitate interchange among students in group discussion, eliminate noise from South State Street, and place the instructor on a more intimate footing with students than the old dais posture. It is also one of a very few air-conditioned rooms. It seats 72.

• The Jason L. Honigman Auditorium (Room 100) was renovated in 1987-8 with donations from the Honigman Family Foundation and members of the firm Honigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn. Used for large classes, major presentations and the moot court finals, it is equipped with microphones and a sound board. While the front half of the room is in the traditional classroom style with long wooden tables, the back half contains auditorium style upholstered seats. Draperies are tucked into recesses in the ceiling to allow adjustments to the window light. It seats 372.

Continuing back to the main entrance from the Quadrangle, on the wall to your right you will find an inscription from the Judge Advocates General Corps expressing appreciation for the use of the University of Michigan Law School as the site of its training during the years 1942 through 1946.

Backtrack a few steps to the elevator or the stairs opposite Room 116 and please go to the second floor. To your right are the placement personnel offices and Room 200.

• Room 200, formerly a study hall, is now used heavily throughout the year, but especially in the fall, as the site of student placement interviews. The perimeter study rooms were added in the 1950s. The additional interview booths were installed in the early 1980s.

(text continues after maps)
The Allan F. and Alene Smith
Underground Library and
Legal Research Reading Room

Rooms 360, 361, 363, 365, 367
Michigan Clinical Law Program
Rooms 310, 311, 312, 313
Child Advoc. Clinic: Faculty offices
Room 371
Child Advoc. Clinic
Room 373
Student Funded Fellowships
Room 375
(temporarily empty)
Room 377
Campbell Competition

Reference Desk

Reading Room
Diagrams of Classroom and Office Floors
Hutchins Hall and Legal Research Buildings

Legend
- Telephone
- Elevator
- Handicap access
- Stairs
- Restroom
Schematic Drawing of Hutchins Hall, Legal Research and the Law Library
• Room 218 contains portraits of presidents and governors of the United States, among them several Law School alumni. It seats 108.

• Room 220 contains prints of older English and early American legal and political figures. It seats 124.

These rooms could not be renovated until some difficulties with the roof above had been solved. The necessary repairs were completed in August 1992.

• The Moot Court Room (Room 232), was renovated in 1991-92, funded in part by gifts from the Class of 1955 in honor of their 35th reunion, and in part by gifts from alumni to the Law School Fund. There are built-in microphones throughout the room and remote control cameras, even in the jury room. It has state of the art video equipment, a fine audio system, air conditioning and a movable podium for lawyers to face the jury and judge separately. This makes the room particularly effective for use by the many clinical programs.

• The Robert and Ann Aikens Seminar Room (Room 232), was refurbished in 1988-89 with their generous contributions. It seats 43 people.

• Room 242 contains racks of class pictures from the Law Classes of 1873 through 1966. It seats 15 people conference style.

• The Dykema Gossett Classroom (Room 250), was refurbished in 1989 with contributions from alumni at the firm and the firm itself. It seats 116.

Please return to the elevator or the stairs adjacent to go to the third floor.

On the third floor, in the hall immediately upon exiting the elevator, are administrative offices. To the right are the Graduate Office, Records and Financial Aid. Directly in front of you is the Admissions Office. The Dean’s office moved in 1987 to Room 328. Rooms 332–343 are all faculty and support offices. The third floor renovation occurred from September 1989 through November 1991. Follow the hall around to the left. At the far end you will find the Faculty Common Room.

The Faculty Common Room (Room 350) renovation was begun in 1982 after the Allan & Alene Smith Library was built. It was completed in 1984. It was designed by Mark Hampton, a prominent New York interior designer, who attended the Law School in 1962-3. This work was made possible through the generosity of Julian A. Wolfson, LLB '09. It was built in a small section of library stacks, originally a closed faculty library and subsequently used by Law Review students for their carrels.

The tapestries hanging in the Common Room were donations from William W. Cook’s personal collection. These two are
Flemish from Brussels in the 16th century. A third, a French 15th century hunting scene, is currently on loan to the Bentley Historical Library on North Campus. There is also a pair of busts of Rousseau (on the left of the tall window) and Voltaire (on the right). These had been in the Cook Room, but were moved for security reasons. Lastly there is a bronze bust of Thomas M. Cooley, Dean from 1871-83. Much of the furniture in this room originally was made for Hutchins Hall and has simply been reupholstered for this room. In the words of one professor, "The dignified splendor of the Common Room challenges us to make our work worthy of our surroundings, to leave an intellectual legacy of enduring value to our profession."

The fourth floor, long home to the Michigan Law Review and the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, now houses faculty and administrative offices, as well as one seminar room, Room 424. In 1981 the Law Review moved to the offices on level S-3 in the new library addition. Its former offices were immediately put to use for faculty. When ICLE moved to a new building on Greene Street in 1987, the remainder of the fourth floor was converted to offices and the seminar room.

Take the elevator down to the basement. As you exit the elevator you will see a vending area and lounge. The renovation of the lounge area was funded by vending revenues. Room B10C will be a Michigan Law Publishing Center. Following the hall around to your right, after a fairly long passageway, there will be a small ramp. As you go up this ramp, you enter the basement of the Legal Research Building. Many student organizations have their offices at this level and are for that reason known as "the Basement organizations." Some other student organizations have their offices on the 3rd, 5th, and 8th floors of the Legal Research Building and in the alumni relations building (the white house across the Monroe street parking lot). The principal student research journals have offices on levels S-2 and S-3 of the Library.

On the left, under the stairway up to the main entrance, is a snack bar. Originally a cloak room for visitors, it later became a faculty lounge and was converted to its present use around 1983. Professor L. Hart Wright’s Spy cartoons from Vanity Fair are displayed in locked cases by the tables. Continuing down this hall will take you to the computer services lab, where law students have access to computer equipment, word processing software, and electronic mail services. On the left is the copy center where course packs are prepared. Backtrack a bit and please climb the steps, and step outside to enter through the main entrance or take the elevator in the small hallway beyond the women’s restroom to the Main Reading Room.
IV

The Legal Research Building

As the finishing touches are applied, the nearly completed William W. Cook Legal Research Library looms upward impressively from its position at the southern border of the Law Quadrangle.

This firmly buttressed English-Gothic addition to the Cook legal center...impels all who pass to stop and admire. For, from its foundation to the very pinnacles of its ninety-foot towers, the new structure seems to effuse a power and a beauty of rare proportions.

Placed conspicuously on the four towers are seals of the forty-eight states of the Union. High arched stained glass windows, upon which are emblazoned the shields and seals of 172 educational institutions located in all parts of the world, lend a tone of dignified solidarity to the entire exterior. Midway between the two north towers is the main entrance to the building, through specially carved stone doorways above which are the inscriptions "Learned and Cultured Lawyers are Safeguards of the Republic" and "Law Embodies the Wisdom of the Ages, Progress Comes Slowly."

Entering through either doorway, the visitor finds himself in a severely chapel-like vaulted lobby of Gothic simplicity leading to the Main Reading Room or to the ground floor cloak rooms and wash rooms. Stone carvings in this lobby and in other parts of the building were done by the John Donnelley Company, the foremost concern of its kind in this country.

The Reading Room itself is one of the wonders of the building. Rare wainscoting of an imported English pollard oak borders the lower portions of the fifty-foot walls, which are capped by a panelled roof decorated with colorful medallions and supported with massive beams. The room is effectively lighted by twenty-two hand-fashioned candelabra-chandeliers of a silver hue with a slightly evident gold trimming, and by lamps placed conveniently at the study tables. Indirectly lighted exhibition cases for displays of rare and interesting publications and manuscripts are provided in the room and in the alcoves.

The peaceful grandeur of a church is created in this tremendous room by the heavily beamed ceiling, the long stained glass windows through which pours the sunlight, and the muffling of footsteps accomplished by the cork flooring which has been laid here and throughout the building. Nothing has been spared in the endeavor to make this and all other sections of the structure as beautiful as possible. Even the specially wrought metal handrails leading up into the Reading Room are in themselves works of art.

The ceiling is one of the most beautiful and interesting features of the room; it is made of large medallions of plaster, paneled, and decorated in blue and gold. Across it run a series of massive tie-beams. At the end of each of these beams are figures holding escutcheons, while in the center are other escutcheons, all have painted on them the coats of arms of various heraldic designs.

In the alcoves skirting this central room are bookcases and tables of the same pollard oak. Plaster beams on the alcove ceilings have been covered with a specially painted canvas which matches to perfection the wainscoting and cabinet work of genuine oak. All of the windows are blended harmoniously with colorful college
and university seals. (If you wish to study the stained glass panels of the various universities in the windows, a key to them is found next to the elevator doors in the lobby straight ahead.) The Reading Room is 202 feet long and 45 feet wide and will have a seating capacity of 450. Books for the research workers may be carried from any of the six levels of stacks by dumb-waiters.

The stacks themselves are of a . . . useful design. In every section is a shelf which may be drawn out and used as a temporary resting place for volumes which are being examined. Ventilators are built into the ends of the stacks to eliminate any possible waste of space. A few of the rows of stacks have been closed off by strong, metal screened doorways, entrance to which may be effected only with the master key . . . Six levels of stacks bring the total capacity of the library well beyond 275,000 volumes.

Among the other physical features of the interior are unique, handwrought railings along all of the stairways, bits of ornamental grill-work and careful selected furnishings in excellent taste which combine qualities of beauty and practicability. Floors of the research section (9th floor) are of a terrazzo which is poured between borders of an unusually beautiful Levanto marble which has been imported from Italy. Wainscoting on the top floor and on the stairways of a Hauteville marble which has been brought from France. An American marble from Missouri, known as Napoleon grey, is used also in several parts of the building.

For the convenience of those who may be disturbed by conversation in the Reading Room, consultation rooms, . . . have been situated in the towers . . .

These rooms were converted in the 1980s to use by some of the Law Clinics.

The Ninth Floor

You may wish to take the elevator in the lobby to the left of the main desk to the 9th floor which is, in fact, the very next level above the Reading Room (stack levels 3-8 are all behind the Reading Room).

The floor immediately above the reading room is devoted to 32 offices for the use of visiting lawyers, members of the faculty and other research workers. It also contains a few rooms used for special purposes.

The Cook Library (Room 903) is as nearly as possible an exact replica of the private library of Mr. Cook's New York home; it contains the original furniture and decorations, in addition to his valuable private collection of books. There is a heavily carved solid mahogany desk, fabricated in the Philippines at the custom order of Elias Finley Johnson, then High Commissioner of the Philippines and later a member of the Law Faculty at Michigan. This desk was donated to the Law School in July 1982 by his daughter-in-law Irene B. Johnson. A companion desk, made for William H. Taft, who at one time was Governor-General of the Philippines, is now at the Bentley Historical Library.
The Herbert Sott Seminar Room (Room 951) was converted from a small closed faculty library to its present use primarily with funds from members of the firm Barvis, Sott, Denn and Driker, and other friends of Mr. Sott in honor of his 45th reunion.

Please return via the elevator to level 3 of the Reading Room.

Library Lore

According to Elizabeth Brown, retired Research Associate in Law, "William Cook was very much a creature of his upbringing. When he graduated from the Law School in the 1880s, legal research as presently practiced was a rarity. Hence, he assumed that the various alcoves around the reading room of the Legal Research Building would house all the books that were needed. Professor William Bishop's father, then the University Librarian, was shown the plans and he exploded politely. Here was this magnificent building, a superb reading room, all these faculty offices and there wasn't a single stack for some books. That is why the stack addition pokes out onto Monroe Street. With great difficulty, Cook was persuaded to have his architects make provision for some kind of building that would house the books.

"Even before World War II, it was clear that the Law School was running out of space for books. All during the War, unused fund from the William W. Cook Endowment income were put aside to finance the addition. Fortunately, the foundations for the original six levels were sufficiently sturdy to support another four levels. The Law School saved, but unfortunately prices rose more rapidly than the savings did. Eventually the Michigan state legislature allocated nearly three quarters of a million dollars for the construction of the stack addition and the bridge. There has been much criticism of the aluminum panels, but the available funds could not provide for dressed stone to harmonize with the rest of the buildings."

So, in 1955, the stacks were increased to 10 levels and the bridge was added from level 7 to the third floor of Hutchins Hall.

By the 1970s it was clear that the library was again running out of space. So then Dean Theodore St. Antoine launched a multi-million dollar fundraising campaign to build the necessary addition. Alumni were involved from very near the beginning of the planning and, together with other private donors, they raised the nearly 10 million dollars needed to build the new library. Both alumni and faculty desired the new building not to conflict with the original Quadrangle. It would have been virtually impossible to construct a building in the style of the original Quadrangle due to cost and a lack of the necessary artisans. The decision was made to build underground.
V
The Allan F. and Alene Smith Underground Library

Please take the stairs in the Southeast corner of the reading room to enter the Allan and Alene Smith Library addition. As you descend you will notice the bronze Constitution, a gift of George E. Sperling Jr., J.D. ’40 and Elizabeth Sperling; and a bronze Bill of Rights, given by the Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on the Bicentennial of the Constitution, Judge Damon J. Keith, Chair.

(If you prefer to use elevators, take the elevators to the left of the main desk down to Level 1. Exit, and turn left, go through the double doors and immediately to your right take the ramp to a special elevator at the landing level which will take you to S-1.)

Architect Gunnar Birkerts performed near wizardry, bouncing light off limestone panels and reflective glass into a V-shaped moat stretching 160 feet along two sides of the new library. Rather than feeling trapped or hidden underground, as many feared when the initial plan was discussed, the scholar using the new addition by day is surrounded by as much or more natural light than one in the original reading room with its huge end windows. Even from the lowest level one can see trees, the original law library, and sometimes even one’s own reflection! A smaller triangular well allows light to come in from the back of the new addition, reinforcing the feeling that one is cradled in light. In the S-1 Display case appears a copy of the article in Architectural Record featuring the new addition.

Not merely beautiful, the new addition is highly functional as well: There are 246 carrels: enough that each student who wishes to have one may do so, sharing with up to two other students. The carrels, with lockable bookcases, are wired for electricity. Numerous other tables, chairs and stools allow one to be closer still to the windows for short assignments. The Law Review and the Journal of Law Reform have offices on level S-3, and a no-food lounge is there as well. The Michigan Journal of International Legal Studies has offices on level S-2.

This 77,000 square foot building can presently accommodate 180,000 volumes in finished space and another 200,000 to 300,000 in unfinished space. What is perhaps most significant about the new library from an academic point of view is that it continues the trend toward open stacks and access to the materials, so that students, lawyers and other scholars needing access to the materials can have it directly. This direct exploration of the sources is a luxury few such extensive libraries in the world can offer their researchers. The Users Manual available at the S-1 information/reference desk covers the whole library, above and below ground. A self-conducted audio tape tour of the library is available at the Main Desk Service Center on S-2.
REFLECTIONS ON THE LAW QUADRANGLE

In 1934, A Book of the Law Quadrangle at the University of Michigan was written. In it appeared this response to the "modern school of architectural criticism which refuses to recognize the validity of any modern architecture having its inspiration in past periods..."

It may well be that any external form which through its beauty gives pleasure to those who see and live with it is aesthetically justified once the function of the building has been capably dealt with in its planning. Beauty of form, even when resulting from deliberate use of a degree of imitation may be its own defense. It seems doubtful that even the severest critic can deny the powerfully compelling beauty in the massive strength of the Library towers bounding so effectively the mass of weight on a horizontal plane in turn relieved from a too great heaviness by vertical mullion and buttress lines. It is hard to believe that the end window of the dining hall would not be worth constructing in the twentieth quite as much as in the fifteenth century. It is scarcely possible that one's aesthetic feeling for the dormitories as architecture will not find much satisfaction in the flow of form from end to end, essentially similar but with sufficient variance to relieve monotony of impression.

The ultimate test must be the effect produced by the architectural composition as a whole and when criticism has expended its full force the fact seems still to remain that the Quadrangle presents the phenomenon of unity brought out of diversity. Despite the variety of its architectural antecedents it achieves a complete synthesis. ▲

This harmony within diversity was also a goal of the planners and builders of the underground library addition, lauded throughout the world as a magnificent solution to a difficult architectural problem. With this addition we see a new reflection of the goals of the Law School and law as an American institution, one that goes deeper than anything William Cook could have foreseen. His perspective was limited to the Anglo-American tradition in which he was trained. Facing the twenty-first century, the University of Michigan Law School seeks to foster an American societal unity that is being carved out of a greater diversity of scholarship and of scholars than Mr. Cook ever dreamed of. And the dreams of future alumni can further this goal in ways still unimagined today.
* "The Quadrangle isn’t Square,” Law Quadrangle Notes: Volume 27, Number 2, 1983, pp. 6- 10.

▲ A Book of the Law Quadrangle at the University of Michigan, published by the board of governors of the lawyers club of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1934. Nathan Fred Editor.


The illustrations in this text are adaptations of rubbings of the brass carvings in the stairway railings leading from Hutchins Hall to the lower level of the Legal Research Building.
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