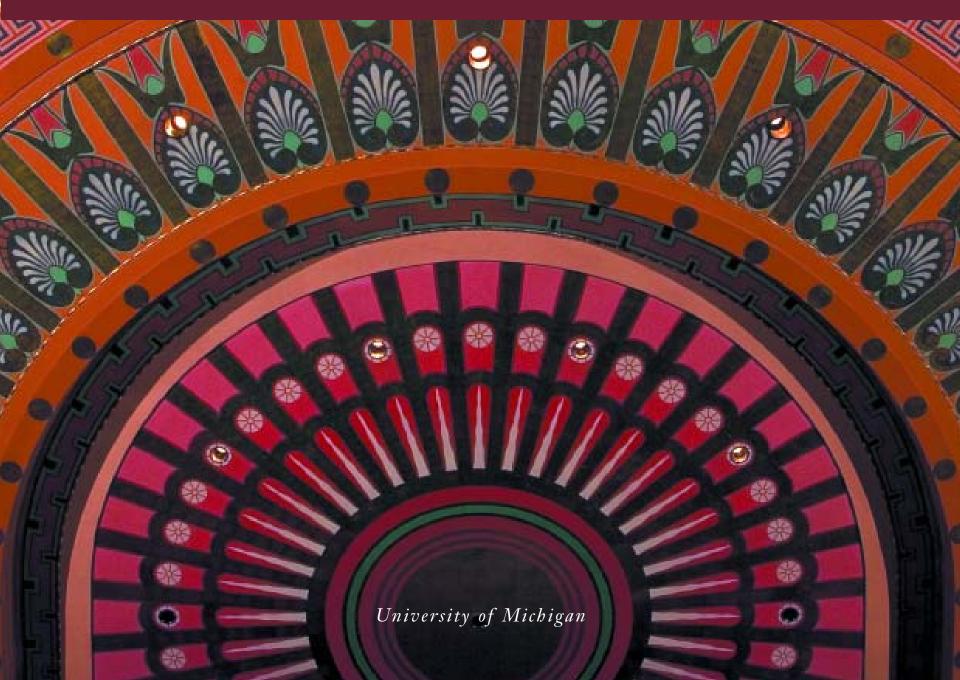


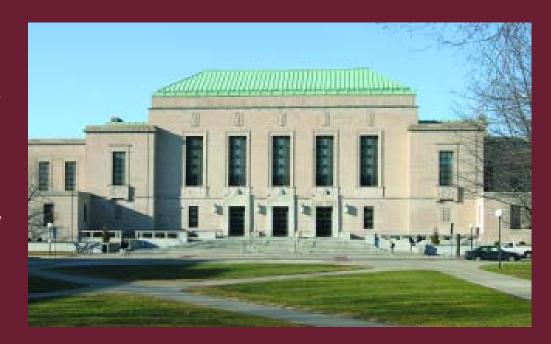
THE HORACE H. RACKHAM SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES



The Rackham Building's exterior walls are of Indiana limestone, with bronze frames for the windows and doors, and the distinctive roof is of weathered copper. The overall dimensions of the structure, exclusive of terraces, are 196 by 250 feet, five stories in height.

Rackham was built in an age when expert craftsmen were still readily available. Elements such as the sculpted forms of the building's facade, the exquisite bronze window casings and the relief work in the building's interior are the work of Corrado Parducci, an architectural sculptor trained in his native Italy.

Across the front of the building the seven general divisions of the Graduate School are exemplified in five allegorical figures above the great secondstory windows and in two figures on the balconies to either side. The figures, from west to east, represent Museums, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, Languages and Literatures, Biological Sciences, Health Sciences, and Fine Arts.



Front cover:

Detail of the ceiling above the stage in the Rackham Auditorium (also known as the Lecture Hall). This is the room's focal point, with its overlapping and radiating bands of gold converging in an intricate semicircle of ornate classic shapes and forms. Elements from this design are repeated throughout the building.

"FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND..."*



Welcome to the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies of the 21st century. From 1999–2002 we engaged in a massive restoration project—the first since the building opened in

1938—to return Rackham's interior to a close approximation of its original beauty, while at the same time renovating its infrastructure to make the building truly functional in the new millennium.

In the following pages you will see colorful photographs of the building's public rooms, where restoration is now complete. Countless people have given of their time and talent to restore these spaces, replicating wherever feasible their original décor. As you look through this booklet, you will readily see why the Rackham Graduate School truly is one of the University of Michigan's architectural treasures, held in trust for future generations of scholars.

You will also find in this booklet a description of what was done to renovate Rackham's infrastructure. While you may not notice these improvements, they stand nevertheless as the foundation of what enables this building to function on behalf of graduate students, faculty and graduate education generally.

Rackham was designed in 1935 to connect faculty and graduate students in their joint pursuits of knowledge. What has evolved over the years—with the building at its heart—is a worldwide partnership of students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters, all of whom are connected by their shared pursuit of excellence in all areas of human knowledge and its application. It is by that sharing of intellect, energies, and resources that members of the Rackham community can extend their academic connections into a lifelong, worldwide network for development, enlightenment, personal and professional involvement, and mutual support.

The Rackham Graduate School of the 21st century now stands ready to nurture and sustain this worldwide network. As you view the building's public rooms, we hope you will feel a new sense of appreciation, not only for what the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies is, an architectural and decorative treasure of considerable merit, but also for what it represents—the future.



LOBBY



For many years the walls of the lobby were painted gray, dictating a chilly color scheme. As part of

the restoration project, the gray has been replaced with a warm gold shade which brings out the detail in the beautiful ceiling. Lobby tables, benches and desks have also been restored, and plasma screens have been installed on each side of the lobby to provide information about events taking place in the building. Additional touches include the installation of a new building directory and signage consistent with the building's décor.

"Three entrance doors of bronze and glass open into an entrance hall 31 by 109 feet, with a floor of green and purple-gray slate laid in a rectangular pattern. The plaster walls are painted a Pompeian red, with black marble base and trim, while a beamed ceiling in blue green with stenciled decorations in polychrome and gold recalls the gold and bronze of the lighting fixtures on the walls. Tables of ebonized wood and benches of the same material with blue-green leather cushions harmonize with the three pairs of blue-leather, bronze-studded doors leading to the lecture hall."

WILLIAM E. KAPP, ARCHITECT, 1938







DECORATIVE DETAILS,
LOBBY



3

STAIRWAYS to the SECOND FLOOR



The neutral color of the walls above the stairs has been replaced with a contrasting blue-green

shade of paint that enhances the color of the stairways of travertine (a light-colored form of limestone). Work will begin shortly for murals on the walls of each landing.





DECORATIVE DETAILS,
WEST STAIRWAY



WEST STAIRWAY



HORACE AND MARY RACKHAM

orace H. Rackham was a country boy who came to the city, studied law at night, and died a multimillionaire. He was born on July 27, 1858 in Harrison Township, Macomb County, Michigan. His father, Simon Rackham, a retired English sea captain, was a farmer. His mother, Ann Avery Rackham, was a devout Baptist. He attended a one-room district school in Harrison Township and the Union School at Mount Clemens. His family later moved to Ingham County where, at age 20 Rackham graduated from Leslie High School.

In 1879, Rackham moved to Detroit, where he held several jobs. In 1881 he began studying law at night, and on June 4, 1884 he was admitted to the Michigan Bar.

On November 11, 1886 Horace married Mary A. Horton of Fenton, Michigan. The Hortons were a prominent family in the area, and Mary's father had settled in the village in 1859. Mary was educated beyond high school at a finishing school in North Carolina, where she studied music.





By the mid-1890's Rackham had formed a partnership with John W. Anderson. In 1903 the firm was chosen to draw up the papers of incorporation for the Ford Motor Company. In return for their work, the partners were each paid a legal fee of \$50 and offered the opportunity to invest in the new company. Rackham, with the aid of a loan, purchased 50 shares of stock, becoming one of the original twelve shareholders and a member of the company's Board of Directors.

In 1913, at the age of 55, Horace Rackham retired to look after his fortune, and from then on, it was said, he made philanthropy on a vast scale his chief interest in life. When Henry and Edsel Ford bought out the other shareholders in 1919, Rackham had already received \$2 million in dividends on his investment, and the sale of his 1,000 shares of stock brought him an additional \$12.5 million. A cautious man with an innate distaste for gambling, Rackham distrusted the vagaries of the stock market and so emerged from the Great Depression unscathed.

continued next page

HORACE AND MARY RACKHAM



One of the five allegorical figures above the great second-story windows on the building's facade.

Great wealth appeared to have had virtually no effect on the Rackhams' lifestyles, and throughout their lives they remained quiet and private people. Horace once said, "I love the small town, and the small town people. They talk my language."

The Rackhams had a strong sense of social responsibility and supported many charitable organizations. In 1922 they began making large anonymous donations to the University of Michigan in aid of scholarship, and over the next decade their gifts to the University exceeded \$600,000. Some of these gifts were used to support classical and archeological research, enabling the University to amass one of the finest collections of Greek and Coptic papyri in the world. In quite a different vein they supported three consecutive visiting Fellows in the Creative Arts, the first of whom was American poet Robert Frost.

Horace Rackham died in Ann Arbor on June 13, 1933. As the Detroit Free Press reported at the time of his death, "His few close friends...knew him as a kindly, humorous companion, skilled in his own profession, and deeply interested in all human affairs. Most of them knew something of his public gifts, but few of them guessed their extent."

Adapted from:

Biography of an Endowment by Marjorie Cahn Brazer, commissioned by the Rackham Board of Governors, University of Michigan, 1985.

The Rackham Funds of The University of Michigan 1933-1953 by Sheridan W. Baker, Jr., Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, 1955.



READING ROOM



The extensive wood wainscoting in the Reading Room has been cleaned and treated, and the plaster

of the walls and ceiling repaired. A fresh coat of paint and new draperies throughout the main room and its two alcoves have restored the area to its original beauty.

"On the south front and center of the [second floor]...is a study hall, 31 by 105 feet, 34 feet high, with five great windows facing the mall. At either end of this room are the book alcove (west end) and the periodical alcove (east end), each measuring 22 by 40 feet, 21 feet high."

"The study hall is carpeted in a large-scale figure, and the color of the 12-foot wain-scot of Appalachian oak in a medium brown is continued in a lighter tone to the ceiling.

On the side walls the seals of member schools of the Association of American Universities are emblazoned in full color." — W.E.KAPP



DETAILS OF READING ROOM
AND EAST ALCOVE,
SECOND FLOOR



"The ceiling is divided by five great coffers in polychrome and gold, and from three of these are suspended chandeliers in antique green and gilt, supplementing the lamps on the study tables."

"The large study tables and chairs are in oak, harmonizing with the wood wainscot. The lounge chairs are upholstered in blues, greens, and terra-cotta reds—the colors found in the pattern of the carpet and in the draperies."

- W.E.KAPP



THE RACKHAM ENDOWMENT

t the time of Horace Rackham's death, his wealth was estimated at \$16.5 million. While part of his fortune was disbursed in the form of trusts and bequests to Mary Rackham and others, the remainder was used to establish the Horace and Mary Rackham Fund.

Under its articles of incorporation, the Fund was to "carry out and administer the benevolent, charitable, educational, and scientific trust created by Horace H. Rackham to promote the health, welfare, happiness, education, training, and development of men, women and children... regardless of race, in the world...."

Executive offices for the Fund were opened on the University of

Michigan campus in 1934. To accomplish the Fund's objectives, the Trustees decided to disburse the Fund's assets to existing institutions of strength and merit, and the University of Michigan was to be a major beneficiary of this decision.

Although an independent graduate school had been created by the Board of Regents in 1912, no provision had been made for a building to house it. This situation did not change until 1935, when University President Alexander Ruthven proposed that, inasmuch as the Graduate School was the research center of the University, the Rackham Trustees consider providing an endowment for fellowship



Original architect's rendering of Rackham Building and surrounding campus area

and research support, plus sufficient funds for a building that would bring faculty and graduate students together for intellectual exchange. In appreciation, the Graduate School would be named in honor of Horace Rackham.

In 1935, the Rackham Fund's Trustees, with the support of Mary Rackham, gave the University of Michigan \$6.5 million,

of which \$2.5 million was to be spent for a building. At the time the Endowment was established, it was the largest gift ever given in support of graduate education in the United States.

The Trustees made additional gifts as well, resulting in the creation of the

Institute for Human Adjustment, the Rackham Arthritis Unit, the Fenton Community Center, and the Horace H. Rackham Educational Memorial in Detroit. Money was also set aside to fund Rackham Pre-Doctoral Fellowships and Faculty Grants for Research and Other Creative Endeavors.

The Rackham Graduate School continues today as the home of graduate education at the

University of Michigan and as a vibrant center of cultural and intellectual exchange. The original endowment of \$4 million has a current market value of more than \$70 million and continues to provide a broad range of support for graduate student study and faculty research.

Sources: Baker, 1955; Brazer, 1985



DECORATIVE DETAIL, EAST LOUNGE, SECOND FLOOR

SOUTH ALCOVE, EAST LOUNGE, SECOND FLOOR

EAST LOUNGE



The East Lounge now serves as the place where students from Rackham's 120+ programs can gather

to socialize and relax. Changes to the décor include devising a warmer color scheme to replace the 1970s treatment and adding wireless connectivity. New carpet has been laid that duplicates the original, and coordinating draperies have been hung in the main room and alcoves. The room's furnishings will be restored and replaced.

"On the east side [of the building] are the Men's Lounge, 26 by 69 feet, 21 feet high, and [the] writing and music alcoves, 17 by 28 feet. The floors of these rooms are covered with a carpet of a Georgian pattern in which reds, tans, and greens predominate. The lounge walls are sepia; the two alcoves are Georgian green. The lighting fixtures are brass and pewter in a modified Georgian character dictated by the furnishings. The furnishings are of the type found in the heavier Chippendale and Queen Anne pieces of mahogany and walnut, upholstered in leathers, friezes, and tapestries." — W.E. KAPP









EAST LOUNGE
DECORATIVE DETAILS

≪ EAST LOUNGE,

SECOND FLOOR

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RACKHAM BUILDING

he first mention of a post-graduate degree in the records of the University of Michigan occurs in 1845, only eight years after the University was established in Ann Arbor. The first Master of Arts degree was conferred in 1849 and the first Ph.D. in 1879. As more students elected to pursue advanced degrees, the pressure grew for graduate work to be administered in a systematic way.

In 1892, the Department of Literature, Science & the Arts decided to establish a Graduate School, a move that created some difficulties for those pursuing graduate work in other areas. Eventually it was recognized that graduate study was a University priority rather than solely a departmental one, and in 1912 a separate Graduate Department was created, with its own Dean and a faculty governing board. The new Department was independent of the University's individual academic units and administered its own budget.

In 1935, University President Alexander G. Ruthven persuaded the trustees of the Rackham Fund to provide the capital for construction of a building that would house the graduate school administration and serve as a focal point for graduate activities on campus.



"The general significance of
the [Rackham] Building lies
in the often-overlooked fact that
graduate work is not merely
courses and laboratories;
rather that it is always a
new form of human relation
with knowledge.
The building thus conceived
is a center for gathering
together those stirred by this
fundamental curiosity to know."

CLARENCE S. YOAKUM, DEAN, 1936

The contract to design the building was awarded to Smith, Hinchman & Grylls Associates, Inc.,* one of Detroit's largest architectural firms. The project was in turn assigned to one of its staff designers, William E. Kapp. Kapp had joined the firm in 1920 after training at the University of Pennsylvania and working for several years under the noted architect Albert Kahn, designer of the University's Graduate Library.

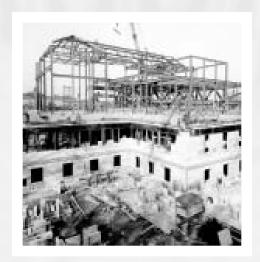
Ground for the Rackham Building was broken in May 1936, and it was officially dedicated in June 1938. The building was designed with tremendous sensitivity to the surrounding area. Kapp's intention was to fashion a structure that would balance the Graduate Library to the south without towering over adjacent residential areas to the north. His design, therefore, was kept low, with a gabled roof and strong horizontal lines to bring it visually down to the ground.

William Kapp's affinity for classical styles was reflected in the color schemes he chose for the building's interior, which was rich with terra cottas and cerulean blues. His interest in the Art Deco style, on the other hand, was evident in the lavish decorations on the ceilings, moldings and walls.

continued next page

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RACKHAM BUILDING







Kapp made use of the best materials and the best craftsmen available. He oversaw virtually every detail in the building's design: bronze window and door frames, ceiling decorations, wall colors, carpets and furniture, even the copper ductwork—all were either designed directly by him or under his close supervision and made specifically for the building. His collaboration with sculptor Corrado Parducci, for example, resulted in the second floor Reading Room's stunning bowl-shaped chandeliers that mimic ancient Greek light fixtures.

Kapp's underlying philosophy for the design of the building's interior was to enhance intellectual endeavor beyond disciplinary boundaries. In an information booklet that he prepared for the opening of the building, Kapp noted: "The Graduate School Building... is neutral territory. In discussion rooms, lecture halls, and attractive lounging and common rooms... the boundaries between subjects are less evident. The possibility of intellectual recreation is evident, and the specialist has opportunity to become a scholar."

Kapp's design works. Since the building's opening many kinds of activities have taken place in Rackham: dissertation defenses, art exhibits, lectures, conferences and symposia, concerts and performances, to name only a few.

Built with great care for beauty, utility and endurance, the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies continues to stand as a jewel of the University's central campus.

Sources: Yoakum, Spring 1936; Biderman, Spring 1982; Brazer, 1985; Baker, 1955; Kapp, 1938

LECTURE HALL



While the Lecture Hall (also known as the Auditorium) was not expressly designed for the perform-

ance of music, it soon became—and has remained—a highly popular choice for concerts, not only because of its excellent acoustics, but also because of the spacious arrangement of its comfortable seats.

Legend has it that although work on the Rackham Building did not commence until well after Horace Rackham's death, his spirit nevertheless influenced planning for the Lecture Hall's seats. A tall man, Rackham had evidently experienced considerable discomfort while sitting through performances in other University venues. Recalling this, his widow Mary insisted that seating in the Lecture Hall be sufficiently spacious that her husband would have been comfortable sitting there.

The Auditorium was extensively restored in the early 1990s.



DETAIL OF LECTURE HALL CEILING, $\qquad \qquad \text{MAIN FLOOR}$

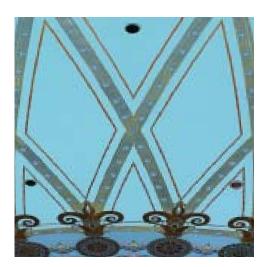
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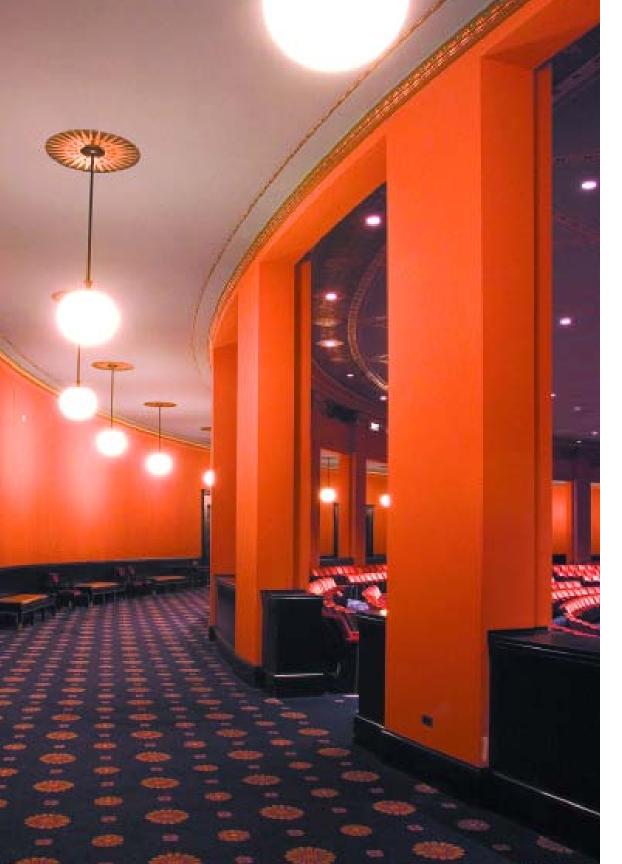






DETAILS OF THE RACKHAM LECTURE HALL, ALSO KNOWN AS THE AUDITORIUM, MAIN FLOOR



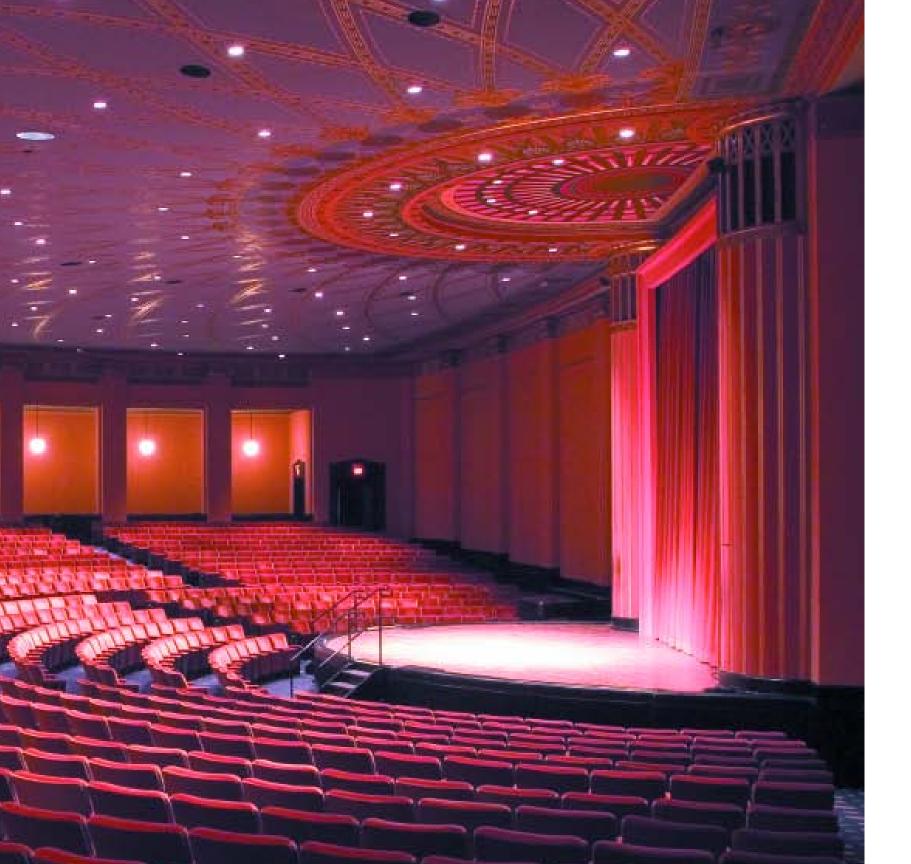


"The lecture hall is a semicircular room
100 feet deep and 29 feet high, containing a
lecture platform on the north and an open
arcade on the south, which gives access to six
radiating aisles serving approximately 1,200
seats....The seats and aisles have been arranged
in a spacious manner, permitting movement
to and from the seats without requiring the
occupants to rise."

"Three pairs of doors on the south side of the room open into a lobby which intervenes between this large room and the entrance hall, and at either end of this [inner] lobby are retiring rooms for men and women."

- W.E.KAPP





NORTH ALCOVE, WEST STUDY LOUNGE, SECOND FLOOR

WEST STUDY LOUNGE



Changes to the décor of the West Study Lounge include application of a new color scheme to

replace the 1970s neutral treatment, addition of wireless connectivity and the laying of new carpet that duplicates the original. New drapes have been hung throughout the main room and two alcoves, which have been transformed into seminar rooms. The furnishings of the main room and alcoves will be restored and replaced.

"At the opposite end of...[the second floor] the Women's Lounge, writing alcove, and music alcove are located. In contrast to the Men's Lounge, the carpets are of a graygreen color, containing a modified Empire pattern in tans and a golden yellow. The walls of the reading room are beige; the two alcoves bisque. The lighting fixtures are in gray-green and gilt. The furniture, in walnut, mahogany, and bleached wood, includes the lighter Chippendale types with Duncan Physe pieces of similar character." — W.E. KAPP









WEST STUDY LOUNGE
DECORATIVE DETAILS

✓ WEST STUDY LOUNGE,

SECOND FLOOR

WEST COUNSEL ROOM



The West Counsel Room, which measures 15 by 20 feet, is located adjacent to the West Study Lounge

on the second floor. The room is used frequently for small meetings and seminars.

The West Counsel Room has been freshened up with new custom carpet, a different color scheme for walls and ceiling, and new window treatments that lead the eye to the view of Burton Tower, Ingalls Mall and the Graduate Library. The room's furnishings are slated for restoration.

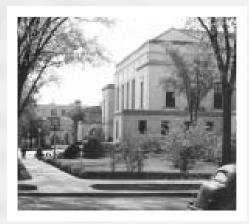
A plaque will be installed here in recognition of Dr. Andrew De Rocco and his major gift for the restoration and renovation of the room. Dr. De Rocco, who earned his master's and Ph.D. from the University, is currently a member of the Dean's Advisory Board and has served on Rackham's Board of Governors, which oversees the Rackham Endowment.



WEST COUNSEL ROOM,
SECOND FLOOR

MORE THAN A BUILDING

he Graduate School was intended to be much more than a beautiful building that would foster intellectual exchange. For nearly a century* Graduate School deans and staff have prided themselves on the services and support they furnish to graduate students and faculty. Throughout its exis-



tence the Graduate School has provided basic services such as graduate program administration, processing of admissions applications, supervision of the academic records and dissertations, and provision of fellowship and research support.

In 1938 there were 3,083 graduate students enrolled in roughly 60 departments and programs. Since that time—with the exception of the years during World War II and the Korean War—the numbers of graduate students and programs have increased steadily. Presently there are

more than 7,000 students enrolled in over 120 programs, the Admissions Office handles an average of 20,000 applications per year, and more than 1700 master's students and 600 Ph.D. students receive their degrees each year.

Here is a brief overview of some additional services Rackham offers in support of today's graduate students:

- Representation of the interests of graduate students and graduate education at the state, national and international levels.
- Discretionary funding that assists master's and doctoral students with special expenses related to their degree work, such as travel for gathering research data and collaboration with other scholars elsewhere.
- •• Focused recruiting trips to ensure a diverse graduate student body.
- in hard copy and on-line—including,

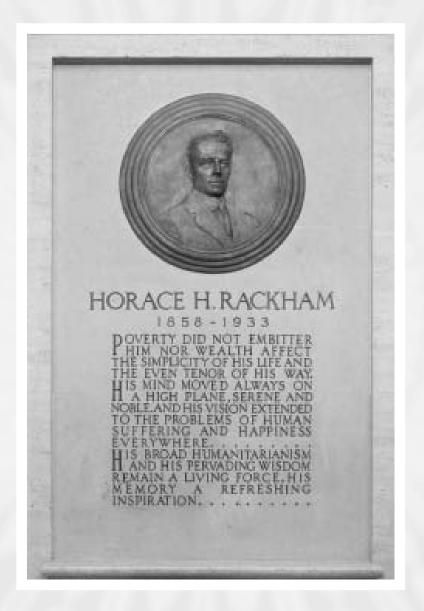
 How to Get the Mentoring You Want, the

 Rackham Student Handbook of Policies

 and Procedures, the Faculty Mentoring

 Handbook, and the Dissertation Handbook.
- ** Professional and personal development workshops for graduate students, such as time management, grant and proposal writing, and strategies for a successful dissertation or thesis.

- ••• Substantive orientations to acquaint entering graduate students with the University and the tremendous array of resources available to them.
- •• Interdisciplinary initiatives. Current programs include the Rackham Summer Interdisciplinary Institute and the Rackham Interdisciplinary Seminars.
- Lecture series and conferences that help graduate students, faculty and the wider public learn about and debate major issues in higher education, with topics ranging from depression on college campuses to scholarship and teaching in the information age.
- *Events that encourage students to take restorative breaks from their work and meet other students from across campus. Two recent examples were a night of salsa dancing (including instruction) and a parent-child creative dance movement class.
- ** Recognition of the accomplishments of graduate students through annual competitions for Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Awards and Distinguished Dissertation Awards.
- •• Confidential consultations for graduate students when problems arise.



PORTRAIT PLAQUE OF HORACE RACKHAM AND MEMORIAL TEXT, ROTUNDA, SECOND FLOOR



ROTUNDA



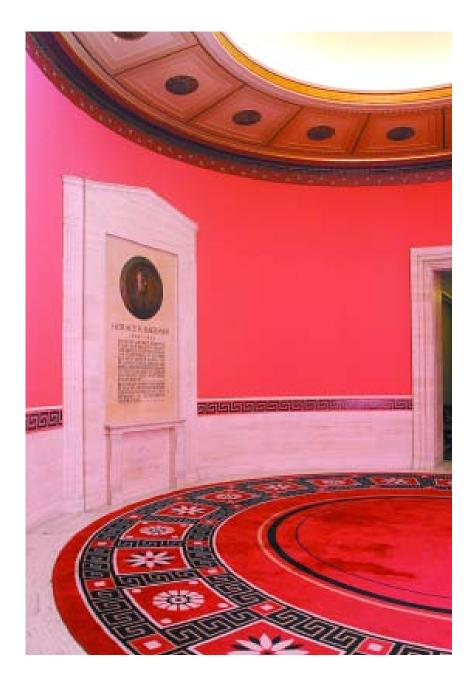
The brilliantly colored rotunda outside the Reading Room is the focal point of the second floor.

On its south side, double doors lead to the Reading Room, the main study area for graduate students. The south side of the rotunda contains a bronze portrait plaque of Horace Rackham, which was the work of Carleton W. Angell, artist and sculptor, who worked for the University's Ruthven Museums. Professor John G. Winter, Director of the Museum of Classical Archeology and a friend of Horace Rackham, provided the accompanying memorial text.

"In the very center of the second floor is a circular foyer 26 feet in diameter, lighted from above. On the north wall of this room, opposite the door to the study hall, a memorial to Mr. Rackham contains a portrait plaque in bronze...and an inscription in bronze letters on a marble background."

"The color scheme of the foyer, the dark terra-cotta red and travertine, are carried through the corridors in the geometrically figured rugs. Corridor walls are plain with accents of color in the ebonized furniture...."

- W.E.KAPP







DECORATIVE DETAILS,
ROTUNDA

PORTRAIT PLAQUE, ROTUNDA,
SECOND FLOOR

DEANS

GRADUATE SCHOOL (1912 - 1936)

KARL EUGEN GUTHE

Professor of Physics

(1912 - 1915)

ALFRED HENRY LLOYD

Professor of Philosophy

(1915 - 1927)

G. CARL HUBER

Professor of Anatomy

(1927 - 1934)

HORACE H. RACKHAM

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

(1935 - PRESENT)

CLARENCE S. YOAKUM

Professor of Psychology

(1935 - 1945)

RALPH A. SAWYER

Professor of Physics

(1946 - 1964)

STEPHEN H. SPURR

Professor of

Natural Resources

(1964 - 1971)

DONALD E. STOKES

Professor of

Political Science

(1971 - 1974)

ALFRED S. SUSSMAN

Professor of Biology

(1974 - 1985)

JOHN H. D'ARMS

Professor of Classical Studies

and History

(1985 - 1995)

NANCY CANTOR
Professor of Psychology
(1996 - 1997)

EARL LEWIS
Professor of History
and Afroamerican
and African Studies
(1998 - 2004)



AMPHITHEATRE, 1938

AMPHITHEATRE



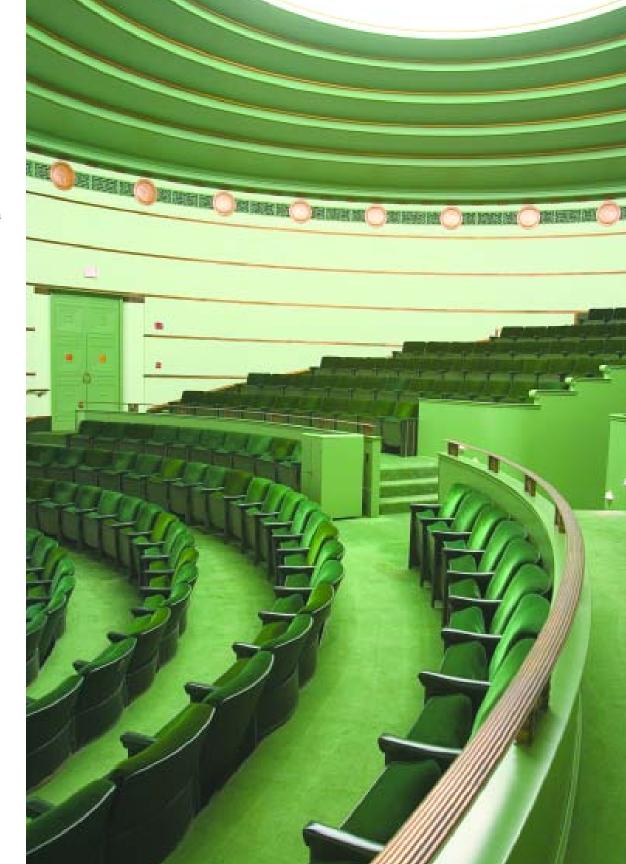
The Amphitheatre is a popular venue for lectures and presentations. Most of the changes to the room

have been made to upgrade its audio-visual capacities. Lighting has been improved, the permanent lectern at the front of the room has been removed, and a completely new audio-visual system and drop-down screen have been installed. The walls have been repainted a soft pale green to complement the seats and carpeting.

"In the center of the fourth floor is a small amphitheatre, a room 60 feet in diameter, seating 233....The floor is covered with dark green carpet and the theater-type seats are fully upholstered in a medium green.

The walls of the room are of an acoustical material in medium brown, with horizontal bands of bronze molding. This color continues up to the ceiling where a series of concentric steps leads to an illuminated dome which floods the room with warm light."

"The decorative band on the side walls just below the ceiling contains 31 plaques on which various divisions or fields of study are symbolized." — W.E.KAPP

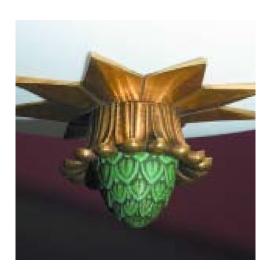












DECORATIVE DETAILS, FOURTH FLOOR

CONFERENCE ROOMS (top)

ASSEMBLY HALL (bottom)





DECORATIVE DETAIL, ASSEMBLY HALL, FOURTH FLOOR



ASSEMBLY HALL, 1938

ASSEMBLY HALL



Improvements to the Assembly Hall and alcoves include the installation of a new acoustical ceiling,

wireless connectivity, new draperies, and a completely new audio-visual system. The chandeliers and sconces have been upgraded in the main room and alcoves, and a new paint scheme replaces the former whitewash of the main room's walls. The walls of both alcoves are in their original terra-cotta red. The furnishings of the main room and both alcoves are slated for restoration.

"On the north side of the [fourth floor] an assembly room 63 by 26 feet, and two alcoves at either end, measuring 15 by 22 feet, provide space for receptions...and informal meetings. The rooms are divided by folding cloth doors, and the decorative scheme and furnishings are of a modified Pompeian character, permitting the three rooms to be used as one."

"The assembly room colors are principally yellow and gray and the alcoves red and gray. The floor of gray and black is covered by rugs in black, gray, and blue, the blue harmonizing with the upholstering on the chair seats and the folding cloth doors." — W.E.KAPP



CONFERENCE ROOMS



The East and West Conference Rooms on the fourth floor receive more use than any others in

the entire building, and the changes and updates made to these rooms have been extensive. Lighting fixtures have been retrofitted, floor lamps replaced, the wood paneling cleaned and treated, and new draperies and solar shades installed. Both rooms have new audio-visual systems, wireless connectivity, and new chairs. The remainder of the rooms' furnishings are to be restored.

The focal point of the Conference Rooms, however, is the new customdesigned carpet for each that replicates decorative elements found throughout the Rackham Building.





EAST CONFERENCE ROOM, FOURTH FLOOR

"At the east and west sides of the building [on the fourth floor] are conference rooms, 28 by 36 feet, for the use of the many groups and associations within the graduate body.

"These rooms are furnished in a similar manner, with carpeted floors of mottled gray harmonizing with the pin-grained oak which extends from floor to ceiling. "The east room has draperies in red, the west room in blue, these colors being recalled in the upholstering materials of the furniture, which is of a modified Empire and Biedermeier character, permitting an exchange of furniture between the rooms as well as with the assembly room when a large function requires that these five rooms be used at the same time." — W.E.KAPP

THE RENOVATION PROJECT



What began in 1996 as a study on the condition of the Rackham Building's infrastructure quickly

metamorphosed into a \$27 million renovation project. Since its completion in 1938, the building had been essentially untouched and unimproved, receiving only minor maintenance and system upgrades, despite very heavy use of its rooms. Given the sheer size—155,000 square feet—and solidity of the Rackham Building, the challenge of modernizing its infrastructure was a formidable one.

After an extensive series of meetings with architects and with representative groups from across campus that have regularly used the building, the plan for renovation was finalized, with actual work beginning in the spring of 2000.

The first phase of the project concentrated primarily on exterior work, the goal being to "seal" the building from the outside before interior work began. The second and fourth floor terraces, which were the source of many interior leaks throughout the structure, were stripped to their concrete bases and a new waterproof membrane and drains were installed.

The terraces' slate paving stones were cleaned, trimmed and re-installed, with the addition of a patterned concrete border. Ramps and automatic door openers were also added to the terraces to make them readily accessible to all users of the building.

Throughout Rackham windows were removed, repaired and restored, and interior storm windows were added in office areas to make the building more energy efficient. Exterior walls were repaired where needed and all tuck-pointing (i.e., the mortar between the stones) was replaced. Parts of the roof were repaired and the front and back doors were brought up to code by adding crash bars.

In the spring of 2001, all staff were relocated to temporary space off-campus so that work on the building's interior could begin. This entailed complete demolition of the entire lower level, first floor and third floor office and mechanical spaces. The work performed included:

- * New air handling systems throughout the building
- * New plumbing
- * New electrical systems
- * Fire suppression and safety systems installed

- * Mechanical systems relocated to a centralized area in the building
- * Original elevators replaced and elevator stops added to make all floors accessible
- * Improved data and telephone systems installed
- * New office suites
- * New bathrooms
- * New furniture for offices and meeting rooms

All of this work was developed with the idea of creating a 21st century working environment within Rackham while maintaining and respecting the building's historical relevance and beauty. The architects and designers took all of their cues from the building, letting the original design and intent of the building's chief architect, William Kapp, lead their efforts as they endeavored to address the needs of a modern university.

While most visitors to the building will never see the results of the work, renovation to the infrastructure will help Rackham provide better support to the graduate students and faculty of the University, the community, and the cause of graduate education throughout the world.

A TREASURE WORTH PRESERVING



The Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies is an architectural landmark on the University of Michigan's central campus. As you can see from the photography in this volume, the Rackham

Building is a treasure well worth preserving. We welcome contributions to the Rackham Renaissance Fund at any time. They may be sent in care of

THE RACKHAM RENAISSANCE FUND
Suite 1530, Rackham Graduate School
University of Michigan
915 East Washington Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1070

Donations are tax deductible, and checks should be made payable to the University of Michigan.









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Back cover:

Detail of one of the five polychrome and gold ceiling coffers in the second floor Reading Room

