title *Beardshear Hall Restoration*

artist *Marty Grund*

Beardshear Hall, ***detail of reconstructed stained glass panel series***

Location
Beardshear Hall
Central Campus
Materials
Paint, Gold Gilding,
Lead and Colored Glass
Date
2003

The History of Beardshear Hall

Beardshear is one of Iowa State's cultural spaces where architecture, art, and architectural ornament have created a significant and beautiful sense of place.
Lynette Pohlman, director, University Museums, ISU

Beardshear Hall, ***exterior construction, 1906***

Originally called Central Building, Beardshear Hall was erected by Proudfoot and Bird Architects from 1903 to 1906 at a cost of approximately $407,000. The first occupants of Beardshear Hall included: the library, study rooms, classrooms and lab spaces, executive offices, general reception, the Treasurers Office, the Board of Trustees, the Board of Audit, purchasing committees, and the French, German, mathematics, English, economics, history, botany and civics departments.

Beardshear Hall, ***interior, 1906***

Over the years the original occupants relocated to other buildings on campus. The Botany department relocated to Agricultural Hall, now Carrie Chapman Catt Hall. As Iowa State College evolved into Iowa State University, additional administrative space was needed and Beardshear Hall adapted to meet those needs. Currently the hall houses university administration including, the President's Office, Student Financial Aid Office, and the Student Answer Center.

The Beardshear Hall Remodeling Project

Beardshear Hall, ***detail of dome restoration***

Project planning began in the summer of 1998. Brooks Borg Skiles Architecture Engineering from Des Moines was hired as the design consultant to lead the university through the design and construction process. Coincidentally, Brooks Borg Skiles is a direct descendant of the architecture firm Proudfoot and Bird who designed the original building in the early 1900s. They began construction activities in July 2000 and substantially completed their effort in April 2003.

The primary focus of the remodeling project was to bring several student services functions into a unified, easily accessible, inviting environment on ground floor. Financial Aid offices, Accounts Receivable, the Registrar's office, the ISU Card office, and Career Services are clustered around a central open desk known as the Student Answer Center. In addition to remodeling offices and brightening the public space on ground floor, office renovations for the second and third floors were made along with many life-safety improvements including: the completion of the building's fire detection/suppression system, replacement of the exterior steps, the provision of greater accessibility for disabled persons, and replacement of the elevator.

After the project began, opportunities developed to affect other areas of the building. The interior atrium stair treads were replaced with new granite treads. Historic, atrium light fixtures were installed within the upper three levels. A restoration effort was undertaken to return the splendor of the dome and rotunda to its original condition with accurate colors and gold gilded plasterwork. The atrium walls and ceilings were painted to be sympathetic to the rotunda restoration. Aproxamatly 17,000 individual 3 1/8" square gold leaves were used. The weight of the gold leaf used throughout the building totaled 10.12 ounces.

Steven Prater, architect, Facilities Planning & Management, ISU

About the Stained Glass Skylight Series

Beardshear Hall, ***deatil of reconstructed stained glass panel series***

In 1961, James and Faye Whitaker purchased several stained glass panels when the original skylights were removed from the building. In 2002, the Whitakers provided these original panels for the restoration project. From the original glass panels and historic photographs, artisans from The Stained Glass Store including Marty Grund, created a historically accurate reproduction design of the original stained glass skylight series.

Beardshear Hall, ***installing a stained glass panel***

The north and south skylights each contain 7,200 individually cut sections of stained glass, traced and transferred, leaded and custom fit. The dome's oculus has a new skylight containing 3,500 individually cut sections of stained glass. The oculus did not originally contain stained glass, but has been designed by Grund to harmonize with the stained glass skylight series. Grund stated this project is, "a near perfect reconstruction".

About the Stained Glass Artist

Beardshear Hall, ***detail of restored stained glass panel***

Marty Grund, stained glass artist for the Beardhshear Hall reconstruction skylight project, became interested in stained glass when still in his rural Iowa elementary school. When his class happened to take a trip to Westminster Presbyterian Church, Grund was awestruck by the light and the color in the main sanctuary. Grund states, "I think it was a seed that was planted in me then that led me to doing this craft."

Grund turned his passionate stained glass hobby into a full-time profession over 25 years ago. He started small, then worked his way up to larger projects including the Iowa Governor's Mansion Terrace Hill, the Salisbury House, the Iowa State Capitol, and numerous churches. His stained glass business, the Stained Glass Store, is in Des Moines, Iowa. Grund describes his stained glass work as, "a slow, arduous, loving craft. Turning a pastime into a business -- it's a dream," continues Marty, "especially with something as beautiful as stained glass."

Additional Information

Day, H. Summerfield, *The Iowa State University Campus and its Buildings, 1859-1979,* Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University, 1980.

For general information on Beardshear Hall please visit:
http://www.iastate.edu/~adm_info/photos/beardshear.html

For Beardshear Hall floor plans please visit:
http://www.fpm.iastate.edu/maps/buildings/

Beardshear Hall, ***detail of dome and oculus reconstruction***

The Beardshear Hall Skylight Project is an Iowa Art in State Buildings Project with additional financial support from George Christensen, Beverly and Warren Madden, and anonymous donors.

BEARDSHEAR HALL

Stained Glass Skylights

Art on Campus accession number 2003.3abc

Additional information on Beardshear Hall public art, other Art on Campus information sheets, and Art on Campus maps is available at the University Museums office, 290 Scheman Building, (515) 294-3342, or visit us online at www.museums.iastate.edu

This information sheet is intended to be used in addition to viewing the Art on Campus Collection. At no time should this sheet be used as a substitute for experiencing the art in person.

What is Art on Campus?

• Iowa State University is home to the largest campus public art programs in the United States. Over 400 public works of art created by over 200 significant national artists, are located across campus in buildings, courtyards, open spaces and offices. In 1982, the University Museums created the Art on Campus Program, the only campus-wide program of its kind that codifies acquisition, education, and care and conservation of a public art collection.

• The traditional public art program began during the Depression in the 1930s when Iowa State College's President Hughes envisioned that, "The arts would enrich and provide substantial intellectual exploration into our college curricula."

• In 1978, Iowa passed the Iowa Art in State Buildings legislation, which requires .5 percent of new construction or remodeling funds be used to acquire public art. Since 1978, Iowa State has completed 52 Iowa Art in State Buildings projects, commissioned or acquired 267 works of public art and involved over 450 faculty, students and staff in the process.

Educational Programs

• Programs, receptions, dedications, university classes, Wednesday Walks, Moonlit Walks, and educational tours are presented on a regular basis to enhance visual literacy and aesthetic appreciation of this diverse collection. A complete schedule of University Museums programs can be viewed at www.museums.iastate.edu.

Tours of Art on Campus

• To arrange a tour of Art on Campus, please contact Allison Sheridan, education assistant for University Museums at 515/294-4442 or email her at aclone@iastate.edu. Please be prepared to provide the preferred date, time of day, name of touring group, number in group, location for the tour, and contact information.

• All educational tours during university museum office hours are free with two weeks advance notice. Educational tours outside open hours are $75 per hour per museum educator. There is no charge for educational tours to university classes and community school groups outside open hours (this includes evenings and weekends). Cancellations need to be made at least 48 hours in advance. Funds are used to support museum programming.

Art on Campus Poetry

• Since the 1930's, University Museums has maintained a legacy of public art poetry. Significant Iowa poets are commissioned to accentuate the Art on Campus visual experience with words. Poems for many Art on Campus works of art can be found at www.museums.iastate.edu or at the University Museums Office, 290 Scheman Bldg. during regular business hours.

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