

Tour of Adelbert Hall:

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Adelbert Hall, designed by John Eisenman in 1880 as a classroom building to house Adelbert College and Western Reserve University upon its move from Hudson, Ohio to Cleveland in that year, was destroyed by fire on June 23, 1993. The University elected to save and reconstruct the building to continue to serve as offices for central administration. The firm of Kliment and Halsband, architects from New York, and the construction management firm, the Krill Company, were appointed to work with University Officials in securing the building after the fire, programming the use of the building, carrying out the design and construction of the reconstructed building.

In the building reconstruction, the organization of the floors and floor-to-floor heights with offices and public spaces surrounding a great multi-story stair hall with skylight was retained. Changes to the building included a new roof line with cornice covering a fourth floor which replaced an overhang roof with attic dormers. A pavilion tower has been replaced by a strong two-story tower that will house a conference space. The stair hall organization was changed to make arrival to the main floor from both East and West possible. The ground floor conversion to a formal public floor from a basement has been completed. In its original design, the building interior spaces all had access to natural light. In the redesign from classroom to office use, the architects' design has maintained that principal. Finishes used in the reconstruction are reminiscent of the original. However, paneling is less Victorian and the central stairs' balustrade is a steel fence rather than wood. Paneling, doors, and moldings are all oak as was the original building. A central air conditioning system has been introduced replacing window units from the 1950's and the building's initial window design of two-over-two double casement windows remains.