

EVANS BUILDING RENAISSANCE

HISTORIC STRUCTURE NOW STATE-OF-THE-ART AS WELL

AS PENN DENTAL MEDICINE'S iconic Thomas Evans Building marked its 100th Anniversary in 2015, the School launched the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project to create a state-of-the-art facility throughout. Now, just under two years later, that transformation is well underway and nearing completion.

OPPOSITE: The new preclinical lab (top) in the Evans lower concourse features 90 work stations, each with a retractable simulation unit. The new library space includes a casual reading area on the 3rd floor (middle), and the building's original windows line the west wing of the Edward & Shirley Shils Clinic on the 1st floor (bottom).

While many parts of this landmark structure have been refurbished more than once over its history, this project is the building's largest renovation ever. The \$34 million project is impacting every floor of the Evans Building, changing and updating the use and flow of most areas, while fundamentally preserving beloved architectural details.

"Our guiding principle with the Evans Building renovation has been to create a facility that supports the highest-quality dental education for which Penn Dental has always been known and respected," says Morton Amsterdam Dean Denis Kinane. "This has been a strategic priority for the School, and it is exciting to see it come to fruition through the support of many faculty, staff, students, alumni, and industry partners. In addition, it has been remarkable how we as a school have continued to execute our teaching, research, and clinical activities all through this major

disruption. A less obvious but extremely critical element was the complete rebuilding of the air conditioning system, the building utilities, and much infrastructure."

Along with these infrastructure updates, the project's key components include a new preclinical lab and continuing education (CE) training center on the lower concourse of the building; a new, modern clinic (the Edward & Shirley Shils Clinic) on the first floor; and a reimagined Leon Levy Library, occupying the second and third floors. On the pages that follow are photo highlights of these new spaces — all of which were open and operational for the start of this academic year.

The remaining elements of the renovation are at varying stages of construction with the entire project presently on schedule for completion by early 2017. In addition, much of the more than 130 pieces of art and artifacts that have been conserved and restored from the Thomas Evans Collection are being incorporated into the public spaces throughout the Evans Building.

The Evans Renaissance project is ushering the building, and indeed the entire School, into a new era.

EVANS LOWER CONCOURSE





PRECLINICAL LAB

The new preclinical lab and CE training center in the Evans Building lower concourse is truly a high-tech learning environment; it opened its doors for student instruction on August 29.

This state-of-the-art facility features 90 student workstations, each with a retractable simulation unit that is fully outfitted with dental equipment and designed to replicate the spatial dynamics of a clinical setting. Each space also has a computer monitor for instructional videos and streaming of live demonstrations, and there are four, 80-inch, high-definition displays in the lab for viewing videos and live demonstrations as well.

A teaching station on the east side of the lab features a high-resolution, ceiling-mounted, pan-tilt-zoom camera for viewing the instructor and the instructor's simulation manikin, while there also is a specialized

dental camera on the instructor's dental light for demonstrating close-up details in the manikin mouth. Other audio visual capabilities enable students to collaborate wirelessly within groups using a new software-based collaboration device with any of the four, large high-definition displays. In addition, there are recorders for capturing demonstrations for future playback and video conferencing capabilities for connecting with remote users.

The original windows were exposed on three sides of the lab space and provide natural light around the teaching station. This space and its technology will also be used for hands-on continuing education programs.

"With our new preclinical lab, wet lab, advanced simulation, and educational media facilities, we are truly moving our preclinical education into the 21st century," says Dr.

Margrit Maggio, Director of Preclinical Dentistry and Director of Advanced Simulation.

The other new spaces in the lower concourse will include new seminar rooms, lockers and shower rooms, a student lounge, and the Office of Academic Affairs & Student Life, creating a floor fully devoted to student activities and student support.

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ABOVE: The teaching station on the east side of the preclinical lab in the Evans lower concourse.

LEFT: Each station includes a monitor for viewing instructional videos and streaming of live demonstrations with 4, 80-inch monitors (bottom, right) situated on the clinic walls for doing the same.



LEON LEVY LIBRARY

History combines with the needs of today's students in the reimaged Leon Levy Library. This dramatic two-story space on the second and third floors of the Evans Building debuted in May during Alumni Weekend 2016.

The regal reading room on the second floor occupies the space where the library was originally located and includes the circulation desk and computer stations along with the reading area. The centerpiece of the room is the original candelabra and the architecturally stunning two-story window that bathes this room in natural light and creates a bright environment in those library rooms on the third floor, which overlook the reading room.

These spaces include an open, airy reading area with casual seating; a seminar

room outfitted with a conference table and large display monitor; and a study carrel room featuring nine carrels. Also on this floor is a series of small group study rooms, each with a large display monitor. In keeping with library trends, this reimaged library contains far fewer books and many more digital resources, and is open 24 hours a day to accommodate student schedules.

A highlight on both levels of the library is the incorporation of some of the Second Empire paintings and decorative arts from the Thomas Evans Collection, pieces that were collected by Dr. Evans over his lifetime as the dentist to Napoleon III and other 19th-century royalty. This art was originally displayed in the Thomas W. Evans Museum that was part of the Evans Building when constructed in 1915.

This new library space, combined with the School's rich history, is already making a powerful impression on prospective students, with many recent DMD and specialty admissions candidates remarking on the unique history of Penn Dental Medicine.

New administrative offices are also located on the west wing of the third floor, and faculty and staff offices occupy the previously renovated east wing of this floor.

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 ABOVE & RIGHT: (top and bottom, left) Main reading room on 2nd floor Evans.

RIGHT: (top and bottom, right) 3rd floor reading area overlooks 2nd floor main reading room on one side and grand stairwell leading to the Main Clinic on the other; (middle, right) small group study rooms.

EVANS 2ND & 3RD FLOORS



EVANS 1ST FLOOR





EDWARD & SHIRLEY SHILS CLINIC

The centerpiece of the first floor will be the Edward & Shirley Shils Clinic, a modern, predoctoral teaching clinic situated in the southwest section of the Evans Building. The majority of this 54-chair facility opened for operation in early September.

The clinic is outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment and patient care technologies and is designed to maximize patient privacy and comfort. The clinic is situated to facilitate a direct, convenient path for patients from the registration area in the Robert Schattner Center.

The building's original windows, lining the west side of the building, bathe that section with natural light, as will those along Spruce Street when construction is complete.

"This new facility is bringing our teaching clinics to the most advanced level, preparing our students for the demands of an ever-changing profession, while giving our patients access to the highest-level patient care in a modern, state-of-the-art clinical setting," says Dr. Markus Blatz, Chairman of Preventive & Restorative Sciences.

Both the final third of the Shils Clinic and the executive administration office suite, where the Myers Clinic had been, are being completed. A café for patients, faculty, staff, and students is also in the final phase of the first floor renovations.

"This renovation has been necessarily expensive and long overdue," says Dean Kinane, "but given the history of our School and the 'second to none' challenge laid down

by Evans, we were delighted as a school and alumni body, to step up to this challenge."

With the remaining work of the Evans Renaissance project on track for completion early next year, 2017 will commence a new era for Penn Dental Medicine. ■

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 ABOVE: The Edward & Shirley Shils Clinic on 1st floor Evans is a new predoctoral teaching clinic.

LEFT: (top, left) the dispensing area; (right middle, bottom left) the reception desk; (bottom, right) operatories in the clinic's west wing are bathed in natural light from the building's original windows.