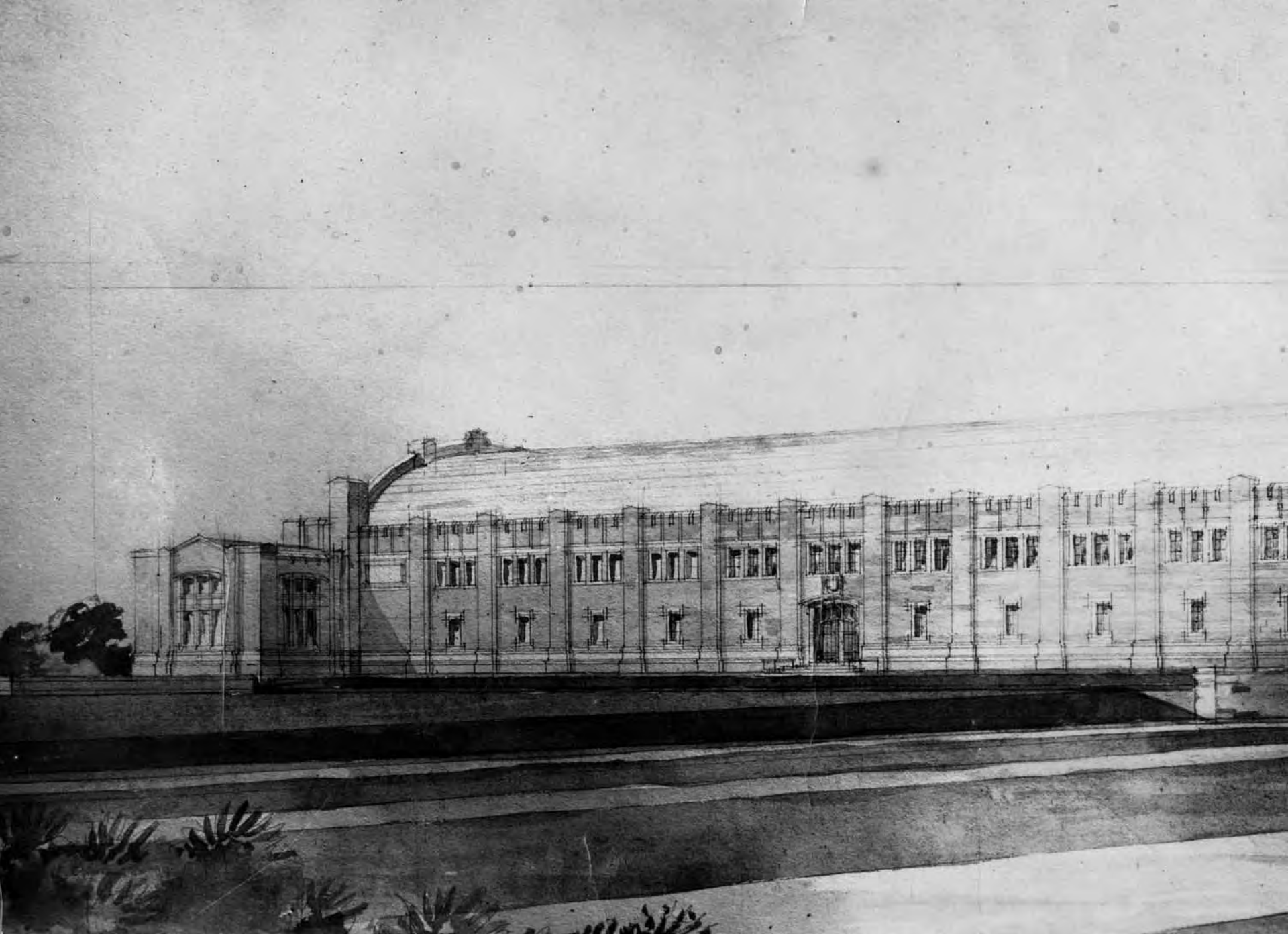
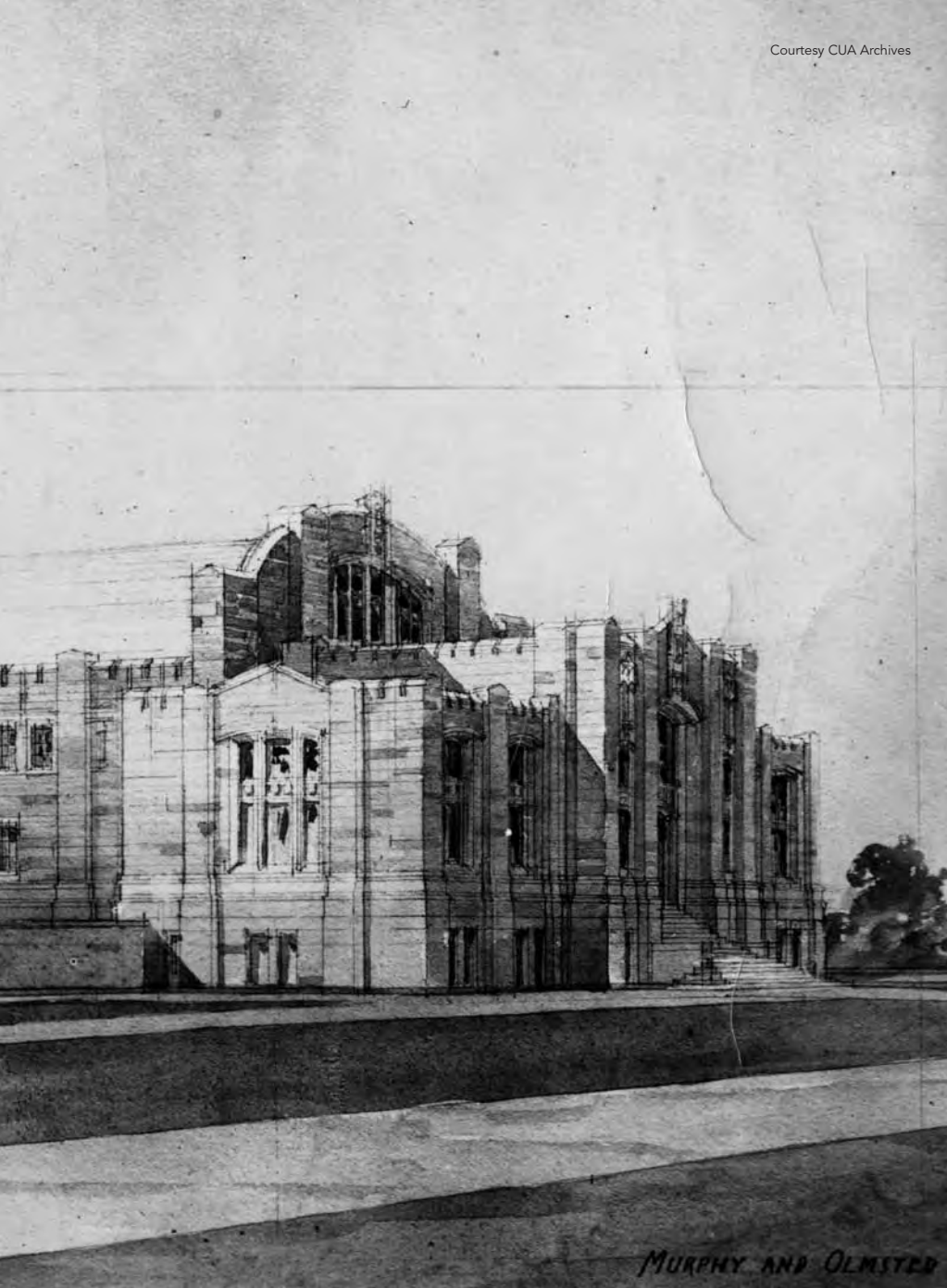


# HOME AT LAST:

How The Old Gym Became the  
Edward M. Crough Center for Architectural Studies

By John V. Yanik, AIA, Professor  
January 3, 1990





**T**his May, the Department of Architecture and Planning will hold its spring Commencement in the newly renovated “Old Gym,” now known as the Edward M. Crough Center for Architectural Studies. For the first time since the founding of the department in 1911, architecture has its own building with most of its space and functional needs under one roof. Students, faculty and alumni can be justifiably proud as the Edward M. Crough Center for Architectural Studies takes a prominent place on campus alongside engineering, nursing, law, drama, music and all the disciplines that constitute the intellectual community we refer to as a “university.” How architecture came to have a place of its own at this university is a story that is quite amazing to me. One could, of course, attribute it to the vision of some, the hard work of many, an enlightened administration and a magnificent friend and donor of unexpected generosity. All these things are true ... yet, I think it was also “a conjunction of planets” ... a coming together of circumstances, personalities and unanticipated connections, perhaps, never to be repeated here again. Do I exaggerate? Consider this: In 1919, the Department of Architecture, scarcely eight years old, moved from the attic of McMahon to the second floor of the new Drill Hall (later known as the Athletic Center and later still, as the Old Gym). This “temporary” occupancy was to last for 30 years until architecture moved again in 1949. It was on the second floor of the Old Gym, that the department was truly born with a handful of students, a few dedicated faculty and lots of spirit. Forty years after the 1949

“exodus,” architecture returned to its original home; the 1919 drafting room transformed into a pantheon-like space as a Memorial Room and that room, in a figural sense, acting like the head of a vast body of space devoted to the study of architecture. Who could have predicted six years ago that the Old Gym, so forlorn that its north and east faces were never even finished in stucco, battered, ungainly, and slated for demolition, would be given to the department (itself forlorn, battered and struggling for survival) that, together, they would be transfigured beyond any of our imaginings? I have been with the Old Gym project since 1984 and have wanted to tell this story because I know how it came about.

My part in this story began in January 1984. The spring semester was about to begin and Professor Walter Ramberg and I shared our thoughts on the first design problem for the “Fast-Track” Design Studio, ARCH200. This was the second semester of a two-semester studio sequence for graduate students whose undergraduate degrees were in a field other than architecture. We often began the second semester with an interior design problem at the scale of a large room or of several rooms. My office in Pangborn Hall faced the east side of the Old Gym and my thoughts turned to it. The new athletic center was nearly completed. What would happen to the old building? Six years earlier, I had tried to interest Dean George McDuffie in renovating the Power Plant for architectural design studios. Ed Daly (M.Arch., 1980) had made a wonderful large-scale interior model of the Power Plant that was pretty persuasive. “You’re too late,” the

dean said. “The Department of Design and Construction is slated to take over that space.” Walter and I discussed the Old Gym. Why not take it on as our studio project? We would limit the scope of the study to interior design only for nine of the 13 bays of the gym, plus the two-story front block and basement. Priority would be given to planning the main level of the gym. I wrote a program titled “Study For the Renovation of the Old Gymnasium to Provide New Quarters for the Department of Architecture and Planning.” Students were provided with existing floor plans and divided into five teams, to begin a three-and-a-half week study. It seemed appropriate to Walter and me that we begin the problem with a seminar on teaching and design principles at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris during the last century. Special attention was directed to the making of figural space — circle, half-circle, quarter-circle, square — and to the principle of “La Marche,” or the arrangement of “rooms” along a central axis to form a series of spatial experiences. The possible application of that principle to the Old Gym with its 280-foot length was discussed. Planning for several levels in the main space of the gym was strongly encouraged. Individual criticism at the drawing board, team pin-ups, critiques and study models assisted the design teams in developing their solutions. The solutions of two teams, the Latavish/Fernandez team and the Zarechnak/Baschuk team were judged to be especially meritorious. Victor Latavish (M.Arch., 1985), a registered architect from Florida, had come to us to study design. Victor’s speed in drawing and his model making skill were most valuable.

Courtesy CUA Archives



Courtesy CUA Archives



Courtesy CUA Archives





In April 1984, Walter and I selected the Latavish/Fernandez solution for further modification and development. Professor James O’Hear provided an updated program with recommended space allocations for the department’s current and projected academic needs. Walter and I had Victor expand the team’s drawings to include all 13 bays of the gym, add a two-bay, two-level studio at the north end, modify exits and stairs next to the auditorium and so on. Victor donated his time to make these changes. It was our intention to promote the idea of architecture taking over the gym, but we had no illusions about how difficult it might be to convince the administration. In May, I took models and drawings to Alexandria to be photographed. Walter then had several brochures prepared showing interior model photographs and reduced scale drawings of the modified Latavish/Fernandez scheme. The model was placed in storage in Pangborn and, unfortunately, thrown out during a summer clean-up.

That summer, I continued working as a senior design architect for Vlastimil Koubek, AIA, whom I had been helping in my spare time. In September, I asked Michael Keller (B.Arch., 1954), Vlastimil’s most experienced building code and zoning person, to set up a meeting with the D.C. Permit Branch to review the schematic drawings for the gym. Michael and I met with Jim Dixon, chief of the Permit Branch and Marty Pitts, one of the fire inspectors, for an hour-and-a-half discussion of occupancy classification, construction classification, egress and fire protection requirements. After the meeting, I incor-

porated their comments into the drawings and brought Peter Blake, chair of the department, and professors Joseph Miller and Ramberg up to date. Peter told me that he was impressed with the study and would like to set up a meeting with Executive Vice President John Murphy to discuss it. I told Peter that I would like to add a rough estimate of probable construction costs and would try to have it ready in time for a November meeting. Malcolm Garfink, chief construction cost estimator of the George Hyman Construction Company, was kind enough to agree to give me a range of probable costs in a week’s time. Malcolm was superb! His estimate was ready by Nov. 16 and it gave us the first realistic dollar figure we had for the project. It was broken down by trades, and ranged from a probable minimum of \$1.9 million to a probable maximum of \$2.1 million. Malcolm cautioned me: “It doesn’t include ‘fancies!’” It included a fully renovated interior, new roof, air conditioning, new windows and a few other necessities. It did not provide for exterior design changes or landscaping. It seemed to me that, in general, the project was feasible and to get beyond this point would require extensive design modification and development, but Walter and I were convinced that the principle of an axial organization of figural spaces was sound. Where we would get the money, however, was not clear.

On Nov. 21, we met in John Murphy’s office in McMahon Hall. Present were Murphy; Vincent Lowe, vice president for development; Andrew Favret, dean of engineering and architecture; Chairman Blake; professors Miller, Ramberg, O’Hear; and me. Walter

and I covered the wall of the office with drawings. At Chairman Blake's request, Walter and I presented the feasibility study including the design approach, building code analysis, space allocations and the Hyman cost estimate. Chairman Blake and Professor O'Hear spoke to the department's needs and projected enrollment figures. Initially skeptical, after two hours Murphy complimented the department on the thoroughness of the presentation. He raised the issue of operating costs for a building of that size, and the need for an energy conservation study. He concluded the meeting and promised to discuss the proposal with CUA President William Byron, S.J. We left the meeting elated — he had given us TWO HOURS! I had thought that he would have ended the meeting in 30 minutes. Later that week I asked Vlastimil Koubek if he thought Joseph R. Loring, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers would be willing to do an energy study on the Old Gym for no charge or a nominal charge. Vlastimil said, "Ask Joe. He will be here later this morning." Joe Loring agreed to do the study. We were not, however, prepared for what happened next. That December, just before the Christmas recess, Chairman Blake and Assistant Chairman O'Hear were summoned to a meeting with Murphy. They were informed that President Byron was not in favor of recycling the Old Gym. The building had been taken off the master plan and would probably be demolished within five to 10 years. For all intents and purposes, that seemed to close the issue.

In January 1985, I took the liberty of writing to Murphy on my own. I told him that I was very disappointed that further consideration of

our proposal had been terminated, and that I had obtained a donor for the kind of energy study on the gym that he had indicated in November was needed. I asked, "Is the energy study still relevant, or has the door been closed absolutely on our proposal?" Murphy answered my letter on March 6 as follows:

Dear Professor Yanik: This is in response to your letter of January 22nd which I initially decided not to answer inasmuch as an official response had been given both to the Dean of the School and the Chairman of the Department. After careful review it has been definitely decided that it is not in the long-term interest of the University to consider renovating and maintaining the old gymnasium for any purpose. Consequently, any further effort or study would not be beneficial. As I informed Mr. Blake, the administration recognizes and is deeply appreciative of the effort put into the proposal set forth by the Department of Architecture and Planning even though our original request to the Department was to consider using space within the gymnasium on a temporary basis until permanent quarters could be assigned.

Since the Old Gym project was now officially closed, the faculty of the Department of Architecture and Planning were asked to vote on a study to add a fourth floor to Pangborn at the March 1985 meeting. I voted against it because I felt that adding a fourth floor to Pangborn







would not give us the identity that the department desperately needed, and would lock us into an unsatisfactory situation. By November of 1985, the Old Gym had been vacated by the athletic department. Approached by the administration, Dean Favret reserved two bays in the gym for temporary use by architecture. None of us knew this at the time, but it was another example of remarkable foresight on the part of the dean. Other space in the gym went to the bookstore for storage, the Department of Art for graduate painting studios, the maintenance department, and the bulk of the space to central receiving and storage. As another year drew to a close, architecture was in the throes of selecting a new chairman. Peter Blake's term as chairman would end Aug. 31, 1986.

In March of 1986, prospective Chairman Stanley Hallet heard about the proposal to renovate the Old Gym for architecture and asked for a copy of the brochure. That same month, Chairman Blake was informed that 1731 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., would not be available for Department of Architecture and Planning use in September. As a result, we were losing all our graduate design studio space. Thanks to Dean Favret, we had two bays available for our use in the gym, but how to make the best use of it? Walter Ramberg and I saw this as an opportunity to "get our foot in the door" at last.

At the beginning of April, Chairman Designate Hallet expressed to the dean his strong support for moving the architecture department into the gym. It did not take long to determine that two bays of space in the gym were hopelessly inadequate. Walter and I began

to examine four, five and six-bay schemes while Joe Miller began negotiations with the Barnes & Noble Bookstore to swap space with them in St. John's. I sent copies of the various schemes to Stanley, who was in Utah, and he sent back several schemes of his own. Finally, Barnes & Noble agreed to move their storage to one of our rooms in St. John's. Their move would guarantee us at least four bays. Walter and I agreed that we would provide a large semicircular room at the front of the space for exhibitions and lectures, even if it meant cramping the studio space. Stanley felt that we should incorporate a small mezzanine or "loft" to look into the exhibit room and I agreed. I tried one final four-bay scheme incorporating as large a semicircular room as I could make and a circulation area to serve the big room and provide access to a center hallway or "street" that would lead to studio space on both sides. After much squeezing and redimensioning, I was satisfied that it would work and, most important, it would demonstrate its capability for further expansion in the future down the axis of the gym. I sent copies of the scheme to Stanley in Utah and to Walter. They reviewed it favorably. We were now into the second week of June. The dean had promised us \$30,000, and we needed contract documents fast and a contractor if we were going to get the space ready by Labor Day. Again, I went to Vlastimil Koubek, and asked him if he could give me someone to help me do three or four sheets of drawings for a demonstration project in the Old Gym. Vlastimil agreed again and asked Charles Stover Jr., to work with me. Charles had a lot of experience with light metal framing and partition work, but had a backlog of work to finish

before he could get on the job. He did, however put me in touch with Nick Lyle, president of regional construction. Nick worked up some preliminary prices indicating that we needed about \$60,000 to do what we were talking about. Finally, in July, Charles was ready to start. From then on it was a race. Drawings were finished by the beginning of August. A contract with Regional Construction was signed on Aug. 19, 1986, and I spent half the day trying to track down Bob Goetz, vice president of finance, to sign it ... and the work began to my immense relief. Dean Favret had pulled additional sums of money from various accounts and made \$55,000 available to us. I was able to go to him for additional items as the work progressed and we ended up spending \$60,000 by the final completion. Because of the late start, final completion was not until the end of the first week of October. Nick Lyle and Regional Construction did an outstanding job. None of us could have foreseen how persuasive this demonstration project would be.

As the graduate students moved into their new studio space in the Old Gym, I could catch my breath for the first time in months. In addition to the studio space, architecture now had, for the first time, a large lecture/exhibit room semicircular in shape, with 12-foot-high walls clad in homasote so that every square inch was "tackable." A small mezzanine looked down into the big room in one direction, and down the center axis in the other, toward the rear wall, 240 feet away. Stanley was ecstatic! With characteristic energy and aided by Professor Miller and a newly galvanized Exhibit Committee under

the chairmanship of Assistant Professor Richard Loosle, Stanley set about scheduling a series of department-wide events in the big room throughout the fall, beginning with an alumni reception on Oct. 10, 1986. Richard Loosle deserves special commendation for his tireless efforts in mounting one fine exhibit after another. What the alumni saw on Oct. 10 was a new beginning — a turning point in the history of the department. Stanley was necessarily cautious in his comments regarding our chances of staying in the gym on a long-term basis. The excitement in the audience of alumni, students and faculty was palpable. A new Alumni Council was formed at that meeting and Joe Miller extended his already full schedule to include a redoubled effort to coordinate friendly contacts and fundraising efforts with the alumni. President Byron and newly appointed executive vice president, Sister Rosemary Donley, were also present at that meeting. Sister Donley's enthusiasm for what had been accomplished was unbounded. We — all of us — began to see in her a staunch friend who keenly enjoyed learning about architecture and appreciated fully what had been done as a "demonstration project."

Through the rest of the fall of 1986 and on into the beginning of 1987, work began again on an updated feasibility study for renovating the entire Old Gym. Stanley began an in-house estimate of his own on the possible construction costs to perform the work in stages. Richard Loosle made a small-scale model of what the interior might look like in extending architecture's space the full length of the gym. I began talking to Tom Lilis and Howard Levo of the Department of Design





and Construction about the possibility of moving maintenance storage and central receiving and storage out of the gym. Again, I went to Koubek and asked his okay for my contacting Loring's office for a free preliminary evaluation of ways to heat, cool and provide new lighting throughout the gym. Joe Loring spent several hours with me touring the gym from the sub-basement to the second floor front. Before he left, we had the beginning of a heating and cooling concept for the main space. On his arrival back in New York, Joe had one of his associates run some calculations and prepare a rough schematic of the basic system. What happened next exceeded any possible expectations we might have had.

In February of 1987, President Byron informed Dean Favret and Chairman Hallet that he would like to meet and discuss the feasibility of renovating the "Old Gym." He would bring Edward M. Crough to the meeting to hear what we had to say. Crough's company, Edward M. Crough, Inc., Construction Manager, had built a number of buildings on the CUA campus, including Pangborn Hall and the Vitreous State Laboratory (Hannan Hall), which was then nearly completed. The meeting was held on Feb. 26 in the semicircular room of the gym. Those attending were President Byron, Crough, Vincent Lowe, Dean Favret, Chairman Hallet, Assistant Chairman O'Hear, Professor Miller and me. Crough announced in a voice loud enough for all of us to hear "What's this about trying to save this old building? I thought we were going to tear it down!" There were a few nervous laughs as we settled into our chairs. Chairman Hallet began the

meeting by presenting Richard Loosle's model and a rendered facade study and partial site plan for a landscaped plaza in front of the gym. He laid out his estimate of probable construction costs and how the work might be done in phases. Crough was skeptical. "I don't trust your figures. I don't trust any architect's figures! How are you going to heat and cool this big space?" he asked. I described the HVAC design concept Joe Loring had outlined for us. Still skeptical, Crough asked, "Who is going to be the architect?" Stanley Hallet and I talked around it. I knew that we wanted to control the design, and I knew that we did not have the capability to do all the construction documents. Crough spoke again as if he had read our minds ... "I mean, who is going to do the contract documents?" There was a momentary silence. Finally, I said, "Vlastimil Koubek will do the contract documents." Crough turned to face me. "Vlastimil Koubek is a fine architect. I have known Vlastimil for years ... he's a real professional and an old friend. If Vlastimil is involved, that's good enough for me."

I was stunned. None of us had known of any possible relationship between Crough and Vlastimil Koubek! "I want to have Vlastimil's opinion. If he thinks this project is feasible, I'm prepared to put one and a half million dollars into it," Crough added, as the excitement mounted so that none of us could remain seated. The meeting ended with President Byron authorizing us to continue the feasibility study. Back in the third floor lobby of Pangborn, Stanley and I hugged each other. "Unbelievable!" we said, over and over.

I headed downtown to Vlastimil's office on Massachusetts Avenue. Vlastimil was sitting at his big desk when I walked in. "Vlasta, I did not know that Ed Crough was an old friend of yours ... we just met with him on the possibility of renovating the entire gym," I said, telling him some of the details of the meeting. Vlastimil was pleased. Then I said, "I committed you to doing the construction documents." Vlastimil did not change his expression. "You know that we have little or no money to pay you for it." Still no change in Vlastimil's expression ... I had expected him to blanch ... "Let's put Bill Scott in charge of it," he said as he called Bill to his office. I could not have asked for a better choice. Bill was a "no-nonsense" architect. I knew that I could count on him to tell me when I was unreasonable from a design standpoint. I called Stanley to tell him the news.

On March 19, President Byron called Stanley and gave us the "go ahead." The Old Gym was back in the master plan. On April 14, Vlastimil Koubek came to look over the situation with President Byron and Crough. After touring the Old Gym, Vlastimil gave the project his approval. I fed design information to Bill Scott over the next four months. Bill thought we would be able to file for a building permit by August. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineers from the Loring's office were brought into the project. Vlastimil had gotten Loring's office to donate their services as well. Dean Favret put us in touch with Richard Cassagnol, an alumnus of the Department of Civil Engineering, who also agreed to donate structural engineering design and construction draw-

ings. Stanley, Walter and I began to develop some studies for the front facade of the gym. Richard Loosle's earlier rendering of a possible design done under Stanley's direction had indicated some type of screen wall extending across the front to mask the bottom of the building. I had the idea that a wall with many "doorways" could be extended across the front in a gentle curve. After some trial and error, I set the curve at a radius of 240 feet. Stanley and Walter liked the idea so we kept it as an integral part of the studies. Stanley's studies were based on a "twin-tower" idea for the front. Both Walter's study and mine incorporated a single pyramidal form above the second floor front of the gym, but differed in other respects. Stanley asked Richard Loosle to render the studies in black and white and I then mounted them on boards.

On June 11, Stanley, Joe Miller and I met with President Byron. We laid out the facade studies and discussed them very briefly. To my great satisfaction, Father Byron selected my design and gave as good a set of reasons for preferring it as I could have given myself. Following the meeting, I made a small modification to the curving wall, breaking it completely apart at the entrance stairs, in a manner similar to Walter's design, and delivered a colored rendering of it to Father Byron's office so that he would be able to review it with Crough. It is worth mentioning that the entrance stairs in a radial pattern in plan were originally shown in that configuration in the Latavisch/Fernandez design, and remained in the final drawings.





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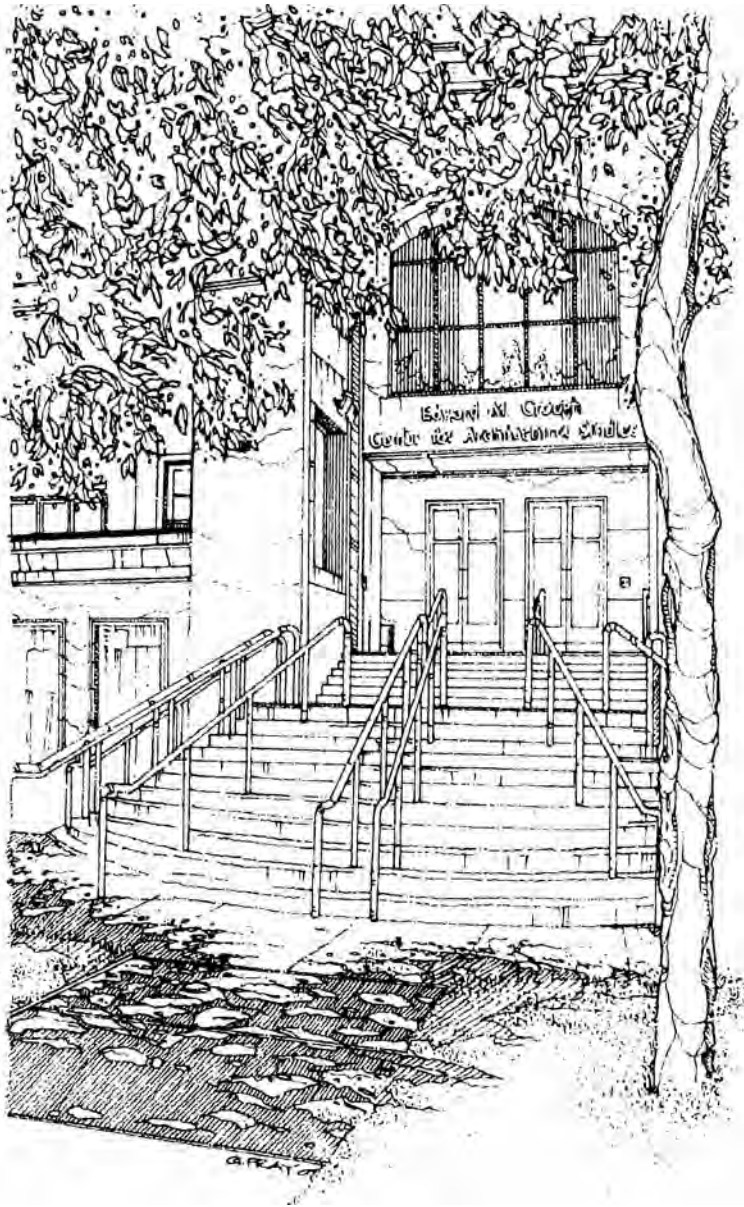


One room in the design received special attention — the Memorial Room. A large rectangular room above the main entrance lobby at the front of the gym had been the studio for the department from 1919 to 1949. It seemed to me, however, that there was an opportunity to create a truly beautiful room and, at the same time, not sacrifice badly needed space for faculty offices. A room in the shape of an ellipse would have a unique character as a figural space and, at the same time, create residual spaces at the corners, which would be more than adequate for four offices. Establishing the correct dimensions for the major and minor axes proved to be great fun. Later, as more money became available, the design was refined to include low-voltage lighting, a cold-cathode light cove and a “window” opening to the long center axis of the gym.

On March 28, 1988, six months after filing our drawings, we received word that the building permit had been granted. Edward M. Crough, Inc., had received bids from subcontractors prior to this, but now was in a position to finalize their cost figures. It had been apparent from the start that we could not do all that we had hoped to do for \$1.5 million Crough asked us how much money we thought we could raise. Stanley, Joe Miller and I named a figure of \$500,000 over a five-year period. We had prepared a list of items we would be willing to sacrifice or postpone to a later phase. Among these was the 110-foot long skylight. Crough said, “You want the skylight, don’t you? I can’t imagine that large space without it. Let’s leave it in.” And so it went. Almost every time we mentioned something we were

prepared to do without, Crough put it back in. Later, we were to learn that Crough, after discussing the matter with President Byron, increased his gift to \$3.2 million, more than double his original amount. Crough signed a contract in President Byron’s office on June 8 with Executive Vice President Donley, Vice President Susan Pervi, Chairman Hallet and professors Miller, O’Hear and me looking on with enormous satisfaction — one might say — sublime rapture!

Demolition work inside the Old Gym began in June 1988 and construction was underway by July. Chairman Hallet, Professor Miller and the Alumni Council continued the most successful fundraising effort among our alumni and friends that the department had ever known, raising more than \$600,000 in gifts and pledges for the building fund and department needs to date. As for me, I was embarked on another race against time. With the additional funds available from Crough and our alumni, I went after a hundred different design items for revision and improvement, prioritizing them according to the construction schedule. Daily visits and discussions with Superintendent Conda Bennett and the subcontractors became a matter of course, and I found everyone on the job immensely cooperative. A hundred unanticipated problems arose; making additional drawings and working things out on the job became a hectic, but very satisfying part of my work. Finally, we were able to concentrate our attention on the exterior landscaping, especially for the area in front of the building. Chairman Hallet and I desired to create a “place” which could be used for “gathering” or “resting”



and also begin the processional sequence through the building. Walter Ramberg contributed the idea of a closely spaced tree grid based on the French manner, such as the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris. The idea of a “grid” that treats trees in an architectural manner, the trees forming a grid of “columns,” was appealing. We envisioned the trees forming a softening screen to the strong lines of the building and defining an open area surrounding the semicircular stairs, the stairs themselves forming a kind of podium for outdoor ceremonies. Preliminary master plan studies by the Mariani office envisioned the extension of the tree grid farther south to embrace a circular plaza, so we ended the tree grid on an alignment with the curb line of Pangborn Road to the east. I brought in Larry Coffin of Coffin and Coffin Landscape Architects to advise us. Larry contributed his expertise and landscape drawings at a reduced fee. With hundreds of friends in attendance — alumni, students, faculty and donors — the new center was officially dedicated on Oct. 19, 1989.

Now that the “dream” has become a reality, we can pause to give thanks to everyone who made it possible: To former department chairmen Frederick Murphy, Thomas Locraft, Doc Goettelmann, Forrest Wilson, Peter Blake who labored so diligently on behalf of the department through so many lean years; to Stanley Hallet for his energy, unwavering support and ability to see the rare opportunity that presented itself at the time of his arrival. To his and Professor Miller’s unremitting efforts to reach out to the alumni and friends and engage them in supporting us so generously, we give our thanks.

To the students of the ARCH200 studio class of 1984, and especially Victor Latavish and Dominic Fernandez, whose enthusiasm for the gymnasium project gave us the raw material for a design based on "La Marche." To Walter Ramberg whose advice on many issues was there when needed. To former Dean Andrew Favret who gave his support and found the funds to make the demonstration project possible. To Sister Rosemary Donley who gave her full support at the most crucial moment. To President William J. Byron for his vision, his support and his trust in what we were attempting. To Vlastimil Koubek, architect; Joseph R. Loring, mechanical and electrical engineers; and Richard Cassagnol, structural engineer, who assisted us so generously at their own expense. To Conda Bennett, superintendent, and Joseph W. Riley, project manager, for Edward M. Crough, Inc., whose patience and skill was extraordinary, we also give our thanks. And most of all, our deepest thanks to Edward M. Crough whose vision and exceptional generosity made the dream come true and has left us a lasting memorial for generations of students and faculty to come.

*Professor Yanik was the associate architect for design and field architect-coordinator during construction.*

## **Postscript by Stanley Ira Hallet, FAIA**

March 28, 2009

*It has been many years since I read John's account of the building of the gym. It is in fact very complete and John graciously thanks all those involved, including Richard Loosle's timely contributions. A few minor points of interest. I actually made my acceptance of the position of associate dean and chair of the Department of Architecture and Planning contingent upon making room for the off-campus students to move back into the Old Gym and having a modest amount of money available from the dean's office to help us make the transfer. I also asked of Sister Rosemary and Dean Favret to be given a chance to see if the department could raise the money necessary for the gym transformation project, a proposal published in the department's newsletter that greatly impressed me. This was agreed to by the CUA administration and that is why the demonstration project in the Old Gym led by John could be accomplished during the summer just before my arrival.*

*In turn, the demonstration project set the critical stage for raising money and the eventual changing of President Byron's mind, a critical element in coaxing Crough to consider the then Department of Architecture and Planning as the eventual benefactor for his donation. I believe Crough was always willing to make a substantial contribution to the university, given his involvement in constructing the new dormitories, but President Byron, eventually one of our strongest supporters, was key to directing Crough's gift to the school. This does not undercut the high esteem Crough had for Vlastimil Koubek and the fact that Koubek would be responsible for the construction drawings. This combination of events, as John so poetically describes as a "conjunction of the planets," did indeed make it all possible.*

*And to put this historic event in context, architecture was the largest department in the School of Engineering and Architecture and both Peter Blake's appointment and mine were made at the level of associate dean and chair. Dean Favret was a constant supporter of our actions to define our own place on campus and become a separate School of Architecture and Planning. While there was no funding to support such an endeavor, there was plenty of good will. Our new Edward M. Crough Center for Architectural Studies became one of the key accomplishments that made the final separation of the department from the School of Engineering and Architecture possible and the creation of the vital School of Architecture and Planning that now fills the old gymnasium. We owe John, and all those others he carefully listed in his detailed history of this most memorable time, our most enthusiastic thanks.*