

NEW EMORY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE BUILDING FEATURES WHITE CHEROKEE MARBLE FROM POLYCOR



'S IMPRESSIVE," SAID FIRST YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT MARC ADELMAN, SHADING HIS EYES FROM THE SUN AND LOOKING UP AT THE GRAND MARBLE BUILDING BEFORE HIM. "IT MAKES YOU REALLY PROUD TO BE A STUDENT HERE." ON A WARM FALL DAY, ADELMAN SITS ON THE STEPS LEADING UP TO THE NEW EMORY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE BUILDING.

With an exterior of Georgia Marble, the building is a monument to refined, classic style. Sunlight is absorbed into the building's tall, elegant windows and reflected off of the creamy white and gray marble exterior. Etowah pink marble trim lines the building at regular intervals, contrasting beautifully with the Cherokee White and Pearl Grey blocks of stone. The deep red tile roof further sets off the radiant marble.

The new School of Medicine Building seamlessly connects the identical Anatomy and Physiology buildings that date from 1917, two years after Emory University was founded. Their marble exteriors, designed in a calico pattern, gleam and show no signs of weathering after 90 years. The melding of grey, white and pink stones against the red tile roofs on these two buildings creates a unique and stunning effect.

Located in between the Anatomy and Physiology buildings, the entrance of the new building leads into an open, airy atrium. Sunlight streams through the tall windows, illuminating warm wooden paneled walls and a winding marble staircase. A walkway on the second floor connects the main building to the Anatomy and Physiology wings. These buildings have been completely

renovated on the inside but retain original architectural features such as exposed brick walls and tall, arched windows.

The new building forms a cohesive whole with structures built almost a century ago, retaining and adding to their classic elegance. At the same time, it is thoroughly modern and contains the newest, most technologically advanced teaching facilities. Located right on Emory's campus, the complex curves around a courtyard facing the Emory University Hospital.

The \$58.3 million building is the first dedicated to medical education in the history of Emory and is one of the most state-of-the-art medical education buildings in the United States. With 160,000 square feet of space, the new building is almost four times as large as the historic Anatomy and Physiology buildings.

The new building makes possible a 15 percent increase in the size of the entering class, now at 133 students out of a total of 480 in the Medical

School. The class of 2011 is the first to enjoy an entirely new curriculum that incorporates the most up-to-date technology. The tailor-made curriculum, three years in the making, places an emphasis on immersing students in clinical experiences.

According to the Emory Medicine Magazine, school administrators and the architectural firm SLAM Collaborative toured a number of top medical schools and borrowed many of their best resources. The magazine quotes Darrell Kirch, president of the Association of American Medical Colleges, who explains that "few if any schools have combined so many innovative elements in one beautiful, cohesive, user-friendly space."

Students attend class in lecture halls with high-definition screens and computer monitors at each podium. They can practice their techni-



25,000 square feet of Polycor White Cherokee, Pearl Grey and Etowah Fleuri marble was used for the exterior of the Emory School of Medicine. In addition, over 12,000 square feet of Polycor White Georgia Marble was for the other two wings pictured above.

cal skills in simulation labs and take advantage of the fact that it is the first completely wireless building on the Emory campus. The School of Medicine has numerous amenities that make it feel like home, including indoor bike racks, showers for those who commute by bike or run, and even a music practice room. Students make full use of the many comfortable study lounges throughout the building, large and small, and can be found at any time of day studying alone or in groups.

"It's pretty amazing, especially compared to last year," said second year student Hart Squires. "Having really nice aesthetic surroundings just makes going to school that much easier and enjoyable. I essentially live here—7 days a week, 16 or 17 hours a day, so it's really nice to go to school someplace like this."

The School of Medicine Building is the newest of the many Georgia Marble buildings that define Emory's campus. After Emory was

founded in 1915, architect Henry Hornbostel of New York set out to create a natural garden campus that would compliment the surrounding landscape of Druid Hills. The neighborhood reminded Hornbostel of an Italian hill town and he designed the buildings with this idea in mind.

Hornbostel succeeded—turning his vision into a reality. Hornbostel's contribution to the Emory University District is described on the National Park Service website, a national register of historic places. The website states that "[t]he use of the block form buildings with wide eaves and arched windows in combination with pink and gray Georgia Marble in a random 'quilt-like' pattern suggests the forms of Italian villas and buildings characteristic of Renaissance Tuscany."

Jen Fabrick, University Architect, explained how Georgia Marble came to define the campus.

cy. However, due to cost concerns, it was not originally considered feasible to construct the building with a full marble exterior.

According to J. William Eley, MD, MPH, Executive Associate Dean for Medical Education and Student Affairs, school administrators thought that the exterior would have to be stucco with marble trim. However, the Board of Trustees was quick to intervene. Eley reports that they responded, "We want this building to be an Emory building in marble."

Eley explained that in the early stages of the project the architects lined up marble and other types of stone from all over the world next to the old buildings. "We looked at it and everybody said, 'We want the same stuff,'" said Eley. "There's nothing as pretty as what is already on those buildings."

The decision to use Georgia Marble was made for technical as well as aesthetic reasons. "Most marbles are softer than limestone or granite, but Georgia Marble is very hard and therefore capable of being used on the exterior of buildings," Fabrick, the University Architect, explained. "There aren't any other marbles that would match the existing buildings and have the same coloration. We felt that the only way to go with a marble façade was to use Georgia Marble."

Trustees on the Steering Committee leading the Campus Master Plan effort, noted that the durability of Georgia Marble was also an important deciding factor. "The original buildings just haven't faded," said one. "It's good quality marble. As you can see, the new stone and the old stone are almost the exact same colors."

Thus, the decision was made to use marble from the very same quarry in Tate, Georgia that Hornbostel first visited in the early 1900's.

Garcia and Sons, an installation firm based in Georgia, purchased the marble from Georgia Marble's parent company Polycor and installed it on the building. Brad Shull, who works at Garcia and Sons and was involved in the project, talked about his satisfaction with the quality of the marble. "It's unique, that's for sure," said Shull. "You can't get anything like that anywhere else."

White and grey marble is used on the new building because repeating the calico pattern would have been too costly. Fabrick describes this as somewhat ironic as the pattern was originally the more economical choice.

The result is stunning. "I think that really defines Emory—the red tile roofs and the marble. It's a beautiful look," Eley said.

In 1916, Hornbostel visited the Georgia Marble quarries in Tate, Georgia and noticed that there was a lot of residual marble around the quarries that was not being used. In a shrewd investment decision, he bought all the residual marble slabs from the Tate quarry and had them sent to the campus. He used the multicolored marbles ingeniously, creating the assemblage that resembles calico quilted patterns.

"You don't see this anywhere else in the country," said Fabrick. "Not this patterning. That was (Hornbostel's) architectural statement."

Emory's Georgia Marble buildings gave the campus of the new University glamour and distinction. Indeed, Georgia Marble had already been used in such prestigious projects as the Lincoln Monument, the United States Capitol, and the New York Stock Exchange.

It seems only natural that the new Emory School of Medicine Building would be built with marble so as to continue Hornbostel's lega-

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