



Unlike the campus' original buildings, a mixed calico pattern was nixed as it was too costly.

Marble Still Marvelous at Emory School of Medicine

CHALLENGE: The School of Medicine Building at Emory University in Atlanta, is the newest of the many Georgia Marble buildings that define the school's campus. 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.

With 160,000 sq. ft. of space, the new building is almost four times as large as the historic anatomy and physiology buildings. In order to maintain the look of the campus, project architects needed a finish to complement the existing pink, white and grey Georgia Marble exterior.

CRITERIA: Jen Fabrick, university architect, explained how Georgia Marble came to define the campus. In 1916, Hornbostel visited the Georgia Marble quarries in Tate, Ga. 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."

INFLUENCES: It seems only natural that the School of Medicine Building would be built with marble so as to continue Hornbostel's legacy. 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; they said, "We want this building to be an Emory building in marble," related Eley. He 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." Trustees on the steering committee leading the campus master plan effort also recognized the durability of Georgia Marble. "The original buildings just haven't faded," said one, according to Eley. "It's good quality marble. As you can see, the new stone and the old stone are almost the exact same colors."

According to Fabrick, 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. "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." Thus, the decision was made to use marble from the very same quarry in Tate, Ga. that Hornbostel first visited.

SOLUTION: Garcia and Sons, an installation firm based in Georgia, purchased 25,000 sq. ft. of marble from Georgia Marble's parent company, Polycor, and installed it on the building.

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 patterned façade 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," Dean Eley said.

Emory's architectural heritage is an integral part of its identity and the School of Medicine Building is an important continuation of the Georgia Marble lineage on campus. The elegant, striking building will continue to inspire awe and facilitate valuable learning experiences for many years to come. "The Tate marble is one of the best available marbles in the world because of its density, its lack of porosity, its coloration and its strength," said Fabrick. "That marble will last a long, long time—I have no doubts about that." Visit www.polycor.com or Circle 340.

