A Building to Embrace the Future

What does the construction of a new building mean for the University of Maryland School of Law? As of early 1998, the project is in transition from open-ended concepts to more formal designing and planning. Here is an overview of this once-in-a-lifetime endeavor:

- Construction is scheduled to begin in 1999, with completion in December 2001.
- Major objectives include creating teaching space to accommodate nationally ranked clinical programs, smaller and more specialized classes, and the teaching of professional lawyering skills.
- The additional space will effectively meet the needs of the Thurgood Marshall Law Library, the computer lab and research-related facilities. It will also feature three moot court rooms and provide adequate office space for four scholarly journals edited by law students for academic credit.
- All classrooms and research and study areas will feature the latest technological advances, such as computer networks, video-based instruction and CD-ROMs.
- The structure will satisfy accreditation standards for the American Bar Association as well as meet the requirements of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The School of Social Work will occupy space for its Public Service Research Center.
- The School of Law has 91,816 square feet of space in Lane Hall, the law library, and several other campus buildings. The new facility will provide for the construction of 42,000 square feet of new space, as well as 105,000 square feet of renovations to the east wing of Lane Hall and the law library. A portion of Lane’s west wing will be razed, replaced and enlarged to create the additional space.
- “We’ve thought about the design of this building for several years now,” says Giford. “This facility assures that Baltimore will host the finest, and most innovative legal education available anywhere for the next generation.”
- The Baltimore architectural firm of Richter Combrooks Gribble, Inc. with the Washington firm of Hartman-Cox will be designing the building and supervising construction.

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