The University of Kentucky Administration Building

Design Team

James W. Potts Architects, Architect of Record
Staggs And Fisher, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers
Poage and Associates, Structural Engineers
Charles A. Phillips, AIA, Architectural Conservator

President’s Advisory Committee

Stephanie Letchert, Graduate Student studying historic preservation
Dennis Domer, Lancaster Distinguished Professor of Historic Preservation
Dan Rowland, Director, Gaines Center for the Humanities
Susan Mullins, Executive Director, Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation
David Morgan, State Historic Preservation Officer and
   Executive Director, Kentucky Heritage Council
Old Main/Administration Building
University of Kentucky
Built in 1882
Neo Classical

Adelbert Hall
Case Western Reserve
Cleveland, Ohio
Built in 1882
Romanesque Revival with Italianate features added
Two buildings with a lot in common

- Physical change has been a constant for both buildings throughout their history.
- Both buildings housed a chapel, bookstore, classrooms and administrative offices.
- Both buildings are at the heart of their respective University’s identity.
- Both buildings were severely damaged by fire.
Both Universities were in danger of losing a precious link to their past. The first step in each case was to stabilize the structure and protect the remaining building components from the elements. Fortunately for the University of Kentucky, a team of experts was on hand to begin this process immediately.
Fire reduced both buildings to a shell, leaving only the exterior walls to build upon. In each case a great loss was suffered but also a great opportunity was created—to improve upon the original condition.
“Preserve the character of the old building but if you can find ways to improve it we will listen ” said Frank Borchert, Jr., Case Western Reserve’s vice president for budget and planning. The response was an “interpretive reconstruction” designed by Kliment and Halsband Architects. This landmark structure has been given a second life and is outfitted to take the Case Western Reserve into the next century.
Adelbert Hall as it looks today

Reflect the past and illuminate the future

Introducing Frances Halsband and Robert M. Kliment who will present the schematic design for the reconstruction of the Administration Building.