PROGRESS 2008

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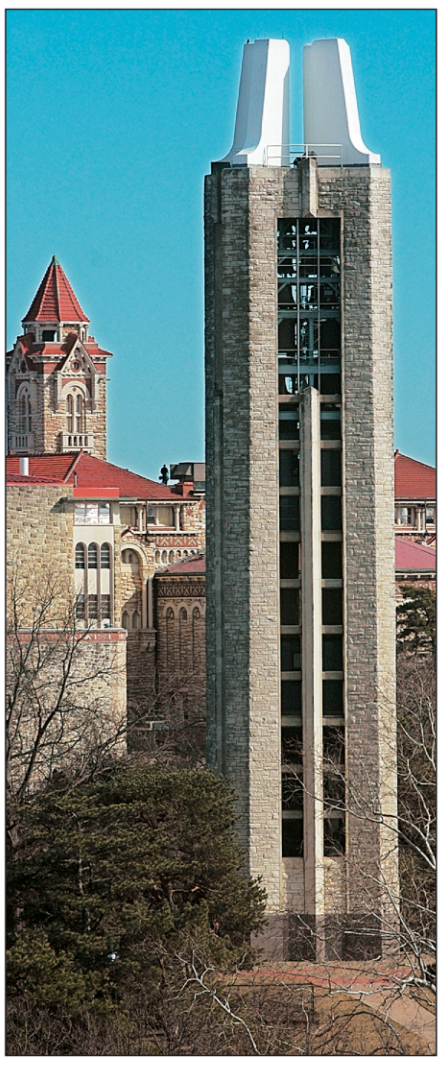
Mike Yoder/Journal-World Photos

DESIGNED by two architects, J.G. Haskell and Frederick C. Gunn, the Douglas County Courthouse, 1100 Mass., was started March 13, 1903. The richness in architectural history and diversity in Lawrence can put increased pressure on contemporary projects, most recently plans for Oread Inn near 12th and Indiana streets.

ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY



CONSTRUCTED in 1950 and dedicated in 1951, the Campanile has played an important role in traditions at Kansas University for more than 50 years. A World War II memorial, it is designed in the Modern style like other iconic KU buildings, including Allen Fieldhouse.

New plans near KU raise questions about city's diverse structures

By Kristi Henderson

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If there's one word that could best describe architecture in Lawrence, it might be hodgepodge.

"There's not one style that's typical of Lawrence," said Dale Nimz, a historic preservation consultant.

So, for many older neighborhoods, such as downtown and Old West Lawrence, that means there could be a variety of architectural combinations. A Victorian house from the late 1800s could be standing next to an early 1900s bungalow, or a Beaux Arts opera house might be down the street from a Richardsonian Romanesque bank building.

But this richness in architectural history and diversity can also put increased pressure on contemporary projects, most recently the Oread Inn.

The large hotel and multi-use space proposed for the corner of 12th and Indiana streets has sparked new discussions about the look of buildings in Lawrence. Some area architects hope the debate over the building leads to a new understanding of their field.

Historic styles

Nimz said that in larger cities, historic neighborhoods built in one style are more common than in Lawrence. Because population growth caused a greater demand for housing, neighborhoods often were built in a short time span and in the same popular architectural style of the time. But because Lawrence grew more gradually from 1873 until 1942, no one area was built entirely in one style during that span, he said.

"It was a very stable, smallish county seat town, and so the architecture that was built during that time represents the styles that were popular during those decades, but only a few of them were built," Nimz said. "We have a few examples from almost every decade and from almost every style that was popular in the United States during those years."

Short strolls down Massachusetts Street or through the Kansas University campus offer an easy oppor-

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FROM TOP, key sites around Lawrence include the Eldridge Hotel, 701 Mass.; the new Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Station No. 5, 19th Street and Stewart Avenue; Allen Fieldhouse, KU campus; and Liberty Hall, 644 Mass. All are designed in strikingly different architectural styles.

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Variety of new developments are under way in, around Douglas County.
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Kansas lawmakers driving federal funds into locally beneficial projects.
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