

# EH002.01

## Project Total Square Footage:

Renovation: 15,996 sf

New Construction: 3,064 sf

TOTAL: 19,060 sf

## Cost per Square Foot:

\$813/sf

## Construction Cost:

\$15,500,000

## Date of Substantial Completion:

March 2017

## Location of Project:

Gainesville, Florida

In response to a request from the University of Florida's student government to provide collaborative study spaces, the historic Newell Hall was transformed into a student-oriented "Learning Commons" that acts as a social learning laboratory rather than a traditional library. The renovated building and a new extension provide flexible 24/7 student study and gathering spaces while offering access to technology and food service across 20,000 square feet. The four-story building is organized around a central social stair that encourages student collaboration, establishes a sense of place, and opens the core of the historic building to natural light. Newell Hall accommodates flexible seating groups and includes meeting rooms, comfortable nooks, lounge areas, study stations, and technology-enabled meeting tables and desks. An *Au Bon Pain* café fulfills a request for food service made by students and differentiates Newell Hall from a traditional library. Outside, the building provides a landscaped plaza for studying, socializing, and group gathering.

Originally constructed in 1910 as the Agricultural Experiment Station, Newell Hall is located at the historic center of the University of Florida campus. In the 1940s, the building became a lab space for food science and agricultural programs until it was vacated in 2012. The pristine brick facade of the building was expertly restored and elements from the 1944 renovation compatible with the historic campus district were preserved. These elements included shed dormers and enlarged windows, which were preserved to present a record of the evolution of the building's architectural character. Newell Hall's denticulated cornice and roofline were also restored to their original state, preserving the building's Gothic architectural expression. The building saves energy and resources by repurposing a historic structure and utilizes best practices for sustainable and indoor air quality to achieve LEED Gold Certification.

The Newell Hall project was uniquely student-driven, as the students body and student government initially conceived and pushed forward an idea for a hybrid studying and gathering facility unlike anything else that was offered on campus. Students played a role in helping secure State funding, which was achieved through a direct, in-person appeal to the Governor of Florida facilitated by UF's Student Body President. The building reflects the vision of UF students and their collaboration with the University and the design team to achieve an environment that is unique to the campus and tailored to how UF students learn and interact.

**EH002.02**

View from south



## Locator





Floor Plans



FOURTH FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

- CIRCULATION
- LEARNING COMMONS
- OFFICE
- CAFE
- CLASSROOM
- STUDY / CONFERENCE
- SERVICE



## EH002.05

View from south (1943)

View from south (2017)





**EH002.06**

North entry



**EH002.07**

View from southeast





**EH002.08**

View from southwest





EH002.09

Courtyard



EH002.10

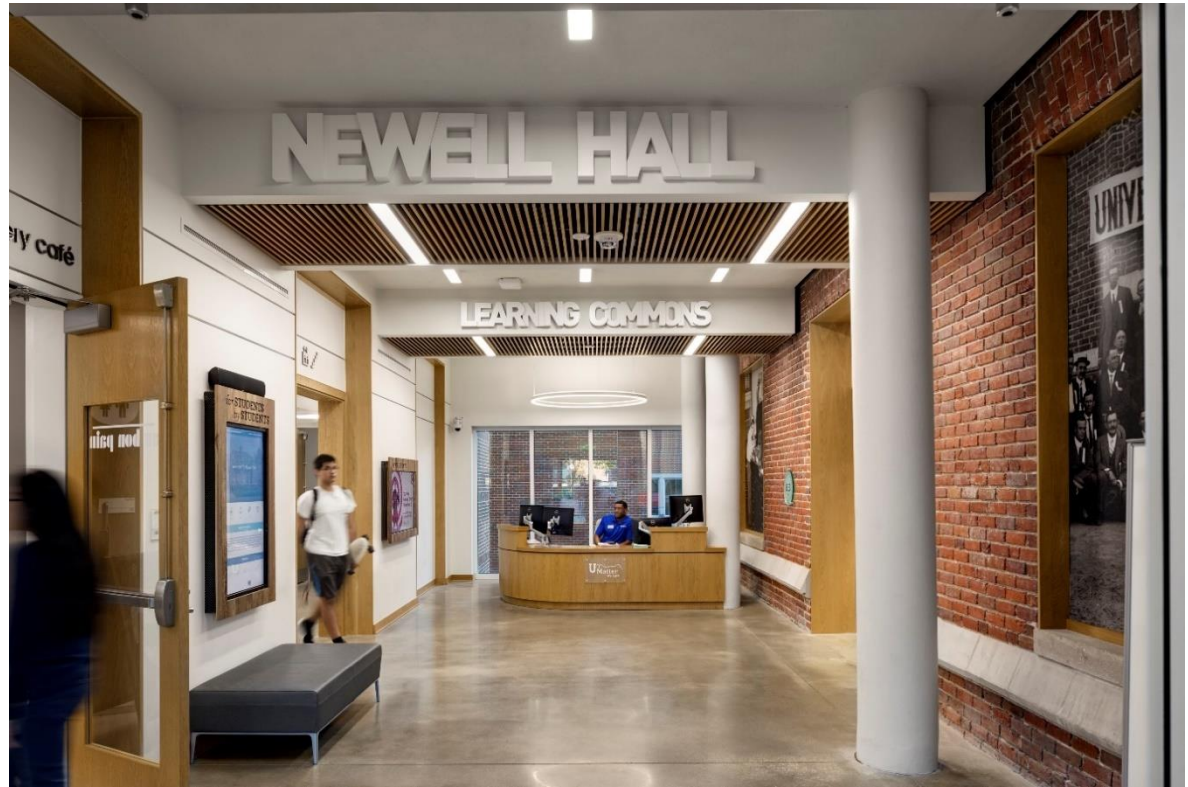
Courtyard





EH002.11

Lobby



**EH002.12**

Learning commons





**EH002.13**

Cafe



## EH002.14

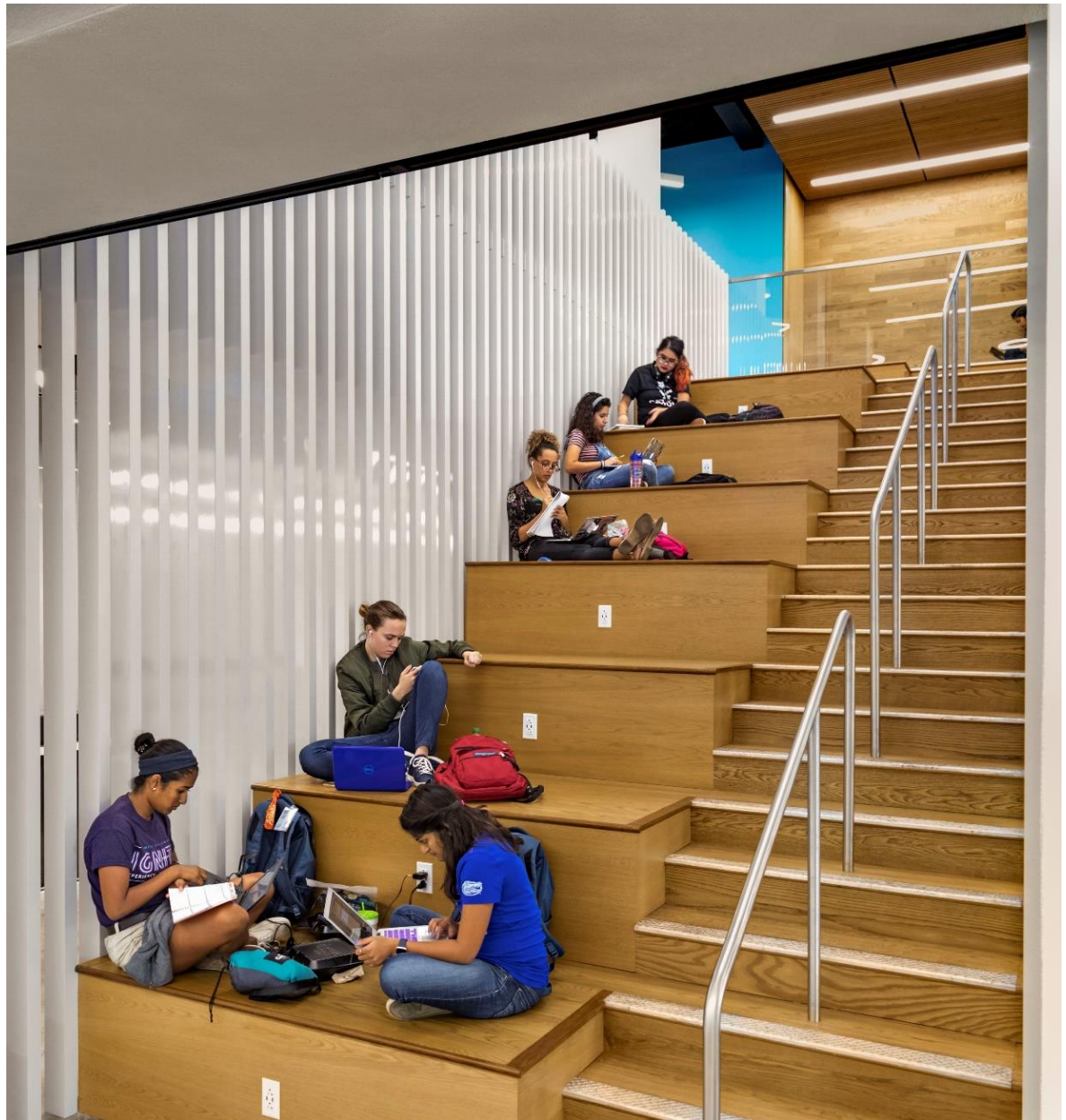
Learning commons





**EH002.15**

Social Stair



**EH002.16**

Social Stair





**EH002.17**

Learning commons



**EH002.18**

Learning commons





## EH002.19

Learning commons



**EH002.20**

View from south at dusk

