



• THE YALE NEWS BUILDING •
• BRITON MADDEN MEMORIAL •
• NEW HAVEN • CONN •

“At Yale I went to a few classes, but I graduated from the Yale Daily News.” LANNY DAVIS '67

EDITOR IN CHIEF PAUL NEEDHAM

How we restored the Hadden Building

When the Briton Hadden Memorial Building opened in the spring of 1932, a supplement was published that included photos of the building, remembrances of Hadden, who had died in 1929, and congratulations to the News on its new facility. You can see some of this content in this section of today's paper.

There was also an advertisement printed on page 10 from The New York Times. The ad chronicled the 125 articles published in the Times so far that year pertaining to Yale, “exclusive of a wealth of sports news.” At the bottom of the ad, printed just below the Times nameplate, was a tagline: “For News of Yale.”

The world has changed a great deal since 1932; if nothing else, articles such as “Yale Freshmen Awarded Prizes for Greek and Latin” are no longer national news. But Yale remains deeply important to those of us on campus, and this building is almost a home (and sometimes is a home) to those of us who have devoted some part of our undergraduate years to the News.

Still, our building needed some work. The scene prior to this summer, as you can see in photos in this section, was one of advanced disrepair. Some computers could not access the Internet, the door to our beloved boardroom could not open once closed, and plaster was falling on our portrait of Hadden because of a leak in the building's slate roof.

Equally bad, the building was no longer serving our needs. Designed for a day when the News had eight editors, the facility had never been rethought for an era in which we have 35 editors. The only serious renovation of the building happened in the 1980s, when a dark-room in the basement was upgraded. That space, as well as the entire basement and top level, had been abandoned in recent years.

I became editor last October, and began interviewing architects for the job almost immediately. With the advice and support of News alumni, we quickly settled on Studio ABK Architects for the commission. Located on Crown Street, the team, led by John Apicella, J Buntton and Mai Wu, was wholly committed to this project and has gone above and beyond the call of duty in every sense.

Before Studio ABK even submitted a proposal for the project, they brought a builder, Shawmut Design and Construction, to walk through the building and discuss how we could improve it in just one summer. The team from Shawmut, especially Bill Sweeney, Matt Lafond and Bob Lux, helped make this very exciting project possible. This truly did end up being a coherent design-build process, which is rare on college campuses today, but helped make the most of our limited resources and expedite an already fast-tracked project.

It took more than just talented designers and builders, though, to complete this renovation in strong form. The staff and editors of the News conceived many of the changes made over the summer. On the day before last year's Harvard-Yale game, every editor met with our architects. It was at those meetings that ideas such as consolidating the sports and news operations into one large room came up. And it was at those meetings that some crucial priorities — a dedicated, sound-proof room for the production of videos, a larger space for our weekly arts and living section — were identified.

From there, we were off to the races. Our alumni made this renovation possible through their generosity and support. The hundreds of designers and builders from dozens of different firms, all listed on the back page of this supplement, executed our vision with startling success.

And now it is left to us to take care of this building, which is once again a fitting memorial to a great journalist. I hope you will come by 202 York St. and see all we have done. See the new basement lounge and kitchenette, see the restored Heelers' Room, the new Newsroom that has already fostered a ton of collaborative thinking, the Multimedia Room that will help make yaledailynews.com even stronger, the editor's office, business office, production and design office and arts and living office that have been reorganized and rebuilt. Lastly, see our Boardroom, the original Briton Hadden Memorial Library, where furniture to match the original pieces has been built and the room once again stands proud as one of the great spaces at Yale.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

These are some of the testimonials printed in 1932 when the Briton Hadden Memorial Building opened that year.

ANSON PHELPS STOKES, 1896

The new Briton Hadden Memorial Building seems to me to be specially significant for two reasons:

(1) It is a memorial to a Yale man who made a most marked impression as an undergraduate and in his brief career after graduation. I know of no man who in so few years after leaving college has made such a distinctive contribution to journalism as Briton Hadden did. He was a man of great resourcefulness, open-minded, public spirited, and loyal to the high ideals he had inherited.

(2) It will be the permanent home for what I believe to be the best college daily in the United States. The Yale News has had an extraordinarily useful career during the past half-century. It not only is useful in giving information regarding Yale doings, but is a most interesting and constructive exponent of student public opinion. Yale without the Yale Daily News is almost unthinkable, and to think of this representative undergraduate paper housed in a permanent and dignified building is a source of great delight to me and to all others who have tried to serve the Yale Daily News in the past.

JULIAN S. MASON, 1898

Briton Hadden should have a memorial at Yale as he should have one in American journalism. He saw reality. He saw it in news as an undergraduate. In his brief life of maturity, he saw it in the analysis and presentation of news. He created a new magazine form. I am glad to see his name remembered at Yale.

LYMAN SPITZER, 1902

A new and splendid Yale is being built. Imposing piles of brick and stone bear testimony to the rising tide of American wealth and of American generosity.

Among these many new buildings stands the new home of the Yale Daily News—a worthy companion of Harkness and Sterling, of Davenport and Pierson. It is an impressive memorial to one of our fine young Yale men, one who was filled with vitality and eagerness, with courage and audacity.

If Briton Hadden could help dedicate this memorial building, his message might well be: “A fine building is good, but without an animating spirit it is nothing. May the News be frank, courageous, truthful—an honest newspaper.”

ELMORE M. MCKEE, 1919

The Briton Hadden Memorial Building is significant as a memorial to a Yale graduate who merits respect and admiration. Hadden was a man who was dominated by ideas. To the realization of them he gave himself with industry and force. He was a man eager for public service and all his work was fortified by strength of character.

The building also represents the appeal of journalism as an art, as a career, as a deeply needed form of public service. The building should not only contribute to the quality of Yale journalism but help to challenge many men to accept the hazards, the adventure, and the call to leadership of the profession of writing.

WILLIAM J. CARR, 1919

There could be no more fitting memorial to Briton Hadden than a building for the News. This building, housing as it will the young and aspiring journalists of Yale, will serve as a perpetual reminder of the career of a Yale journalist, who when still a young man created a new journalistic form. This new form of journalistic expression has already affected and changed journalistic style and will continue to do so as long as modern journalism exists.

F.O. MATHIESSEN, 1923

Perhaps the most satisfactory thing about the News, when I “heeled” it at the time that Briton Hadden was Chairman, lay in the fact that the atmosphere of its musty, bare rooms in the basement was that of a real newspaper. There was no costly pretentiousness, no striving to be a pseudo-club, and therefore, as an organization, it was excitingly alive. To keep that quality of clear and unaffected vigor in the new surroundings is a thing that Briton Hadden would most want.

"I always say I learned the first lesson of journalism at the Yale Daily News. Which was we try to be equally inaccurate about both sides." CALVIN TRILLIN '57



THE HEELERS' ROOM Free of the clutter of broken microwaves and refrigerators, the Heelers' Room has been restored to splendor. Woodwork designed to match the original specifications, combined with new, modern lighting and furniture, makes this a welcoming place for reporters to work.

“For a place that offers no formal journalism training, Yale has produced a steady stream of committed, even driven journalists. Year after year, the Yale Daily News kindles a passion for the art and sends out into the world people who practice it well and love doing it.” PAUL STEIGER '64



THE BOARDROOM The priority here was to improve the technology in the room without compromising the historic integrity of the space. A screen, connected to our computer system, was added, allowing editors to view photographs and our website while meeting. At the same time, historic furniture was reproduced, the original table was rebuilt and the portrait of Hadden was restored.

"From the first, the News knit itself into the essential fabric of our Yale life, again and again playing a most helpful part in its development." JAMES ANGELL



ARTS & LIVING The top level space of our building had essentially been a storage space; now, it's been turned into a luxurious lounge-cum-office for our arts and living section. The coffee table, designed by Eero Saarinen, is surrounded by comfortable furniture with workstations on either side.

"My work on the Yale Daily News taught me as much as any course I took at Yale. The News transformed my life and broadened my horizons." JOSEPH LIEBERMAN '64 LAW '67



THE NEWSROOM By making the Newsroom larger, we enable more editors and staffers to sit near each other. Now the Sports and Copy desks are part of the building's hub, surrounded by photos of old editors, who can keep a watchful eye on each night's paper now.

"The innovation which we begin by this morning's issue is justified by the dullness of the times, and by the demand for news among us."

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THE BASEMENT The basement at the News was filled with asbestos, mold, twenty-year-old photo chemicals and, best of all, a full suitcase belonging to Andrew Mangino '09. All that was taken out of the building and, in its place and in the place of our old darkroom, comes a lounge and kitchenette.

The News would like to thank...

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CONSTRUCTION

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