



New *in an old building* Rooms

by DENIS COLWELL, *Head*

Perhaps the practice rooms on the mezzanine of the College of Fine Arts were state-of-the-art 100 years ago, and maybe they were serviceable 50 years ago, but lately they appear a little long in the tooth, to say the least. As any conservatory student will testify, spending multiple hours per day in a tiny, worn-out, beat-up room without climate control and putting up with sound bleeding over from rooms on every side - well, it just isn't any fun. And that's if you can find one that's not already in use.

With funding support from CMU Provost Mark Kamlet, the practice rooms at the south end of CFA were completely renovated this past year, and a few new rooms christened to boot. Walls, ceilings, floors - everything came out. The new rooms that went in boast upgraded lighting, HVAC and excellent sound isolation, even while respecting the architectural integrity of the College of Fine Arts building.

A total of eight new practice rooms were constructed in what was (back when the School of Drama roamed these halls) a row of dressing rooms above Kresge Theatre, spaces that had deteriorated and were unusable for the past few decades. Given that there are never, EVER enough practice rooms, the addition of these is very welcome news.

Plans are being drawn up to renovate the north end of the mezzanine as soon as funding can be found.

In a 100-year-old building, renovations tend to be difficult and expensive. If you can help with the next phase of these critically needed improvements, we'd love to hear from you.