

NEW ENTRANCE, STONE HALL, RAIN GARDEN

What was here before the renovation?

- The New Entrance used to feature one pair of doors. You entered a small hallway with the Nursery on the right, the Columbarium in front, and the old elevator and Stone Hall on the left. The stage blocked passage to the choir room so it was necessary to enter Stone Hall to reach the other side of the building. There was a straight sidewalk towards the doors but no elaborate greenery.
- Stone Hall featured a stage but no obvious space to place a video screen. Videos were often placed high on the stage, but presenters generally stood on risers on the ground. Window shades were broken or missing, and the floor was yellowed tiles. There was sound bleed between Stone Hall and the Sanctuary above. Old furniture lined the perimeter of the room and many of the brown tables and blue padded chairs were in poor condition.
- The area, which is now the Rain Garden, was just grass.

What's changed?

New Entrance:

- The nursery room and old elevator were demolished enabling a large entrance lobby and a small building addition was built to house two new, large elevators.
- The new entrance includes two pairs of doors, a vestibule with walk-off mat, and another two sets of double doors, creating protection from inclement weather.
- The lobby features a floating wall with a large video screen and allows for more privacy for the Columbarium directly behind the wall. It's easy to see the Central Stairs and the elevator from the new lobby. Around the corner are three doors into Stone Hall.
- Two walkways and new landscaping lead people to the new entrance. A no-curb section near the walkway allows for easy drop-off and pick-up.
- **COMING SOON:** A video screen next to the new elevators will provide a directory of rooms and list where activities are occurring on campus. Way finding signage will be mounted on the wall and in various places in the Entrance Lobby and the Central Stairs lobby. Outside the entrance, work is underway to make this area more inviting with signage, more landscaping and seating.

Stone Hall:

- With the stage removed to make way for the Central Stairs, a wall is in place for video screens.
- The floor has been replaced.
- Work is underway on the perimeter of the room to install sound rated ceiling tile to help minimize sound bleed.
- New gray tables (4' rounds, 6' and 8' rectangles) replace the brown furniture.
- **COMING SOON:** Four large video screens will be mounted on the new, large wall. New chairs will replace the blue padded chairs used in Stone Hall and throughout the building. Window shades have been ordered and the perimeter ceiling tile project will be completed.

Rain Garden:

- The rain garden – formally called the Bio-Retention Garden – was a stormwater management requirement from the DC government. The calculation of the size of the garden was based on the amount of ground 'disturbed' by the construction.
- The rain garden is designed to collect and hold rainwater during a storm and slowly percolate the water through over 5 feet of filter materials.
- The rain garden features two trench drains on the north ring road that collects stormwater runoff and feeds it directly into the rain garden.
- There are 667 plants and trees in the rain garden
- The rain garden is designed allow ponding of water above grade a minimum of 12 inches.

Interesting tidbits:

- Pepco feeders from the manhole in Van Ness Street run underground through the rain garden. This required we slightly alter the foundation walls and drainage within the pit of the rain garden.
- Removal of the large holly tree in the corner of the New Entrance has significantly improved natural lighting into Stone Hall.