Over a Century of Dorm Rooms at the University of Pennsylvania

Back in 1830, when Penn was located in Old City, tuition was $25 per term plus an extra $3 for room and board. While prices have increased since then, Penn now has the College House system, which began in 1998 with a variety of dormitory buildings, culminating in New College House, which recently opened. Here are several scenes spanning over a century.

Hill College House lounge, 1960; built for Penn’s women students.

Sergeant Hall, built 1900, room, ca. 1912.

Hill College House, built 1960, Eero Saarinen, and Assoc., architects.

Quadrangle, Fisher-Hassenfeld House, ca. 2004, after major renovations and reorganization.

Rodin College House, ca. 2008, after major renovations.

Penn men relaxing in the Quadrangle, ca. 1955.

Upper Quadrangle room, ca. 1890s; the University supplied a bedstead, mattress, bureau, washstand table, bookcase, chairs and toilet china.

Quadrangle study room in Lippincott House, ca. 1901, built 1894-1896, Cope & Stewardson, architects.

New College House lobby, just opened for fall 2016 semester; the building is bounded by 33rd Street, 34th Street, Chestnut Street and the 125 Years of Women at Penn Walkway.

The Dining Hall is central to the New College House. It spills onto the courtyard and is nestled beneath the lifted lawn (see page 1). The dining venue allows for both large special events and more intimate dining with friends. It is Penn’s first dormitory designed specifically as a College House, by architects Bohlin Cywinski Jackson (Almanac August 30, 2016).

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