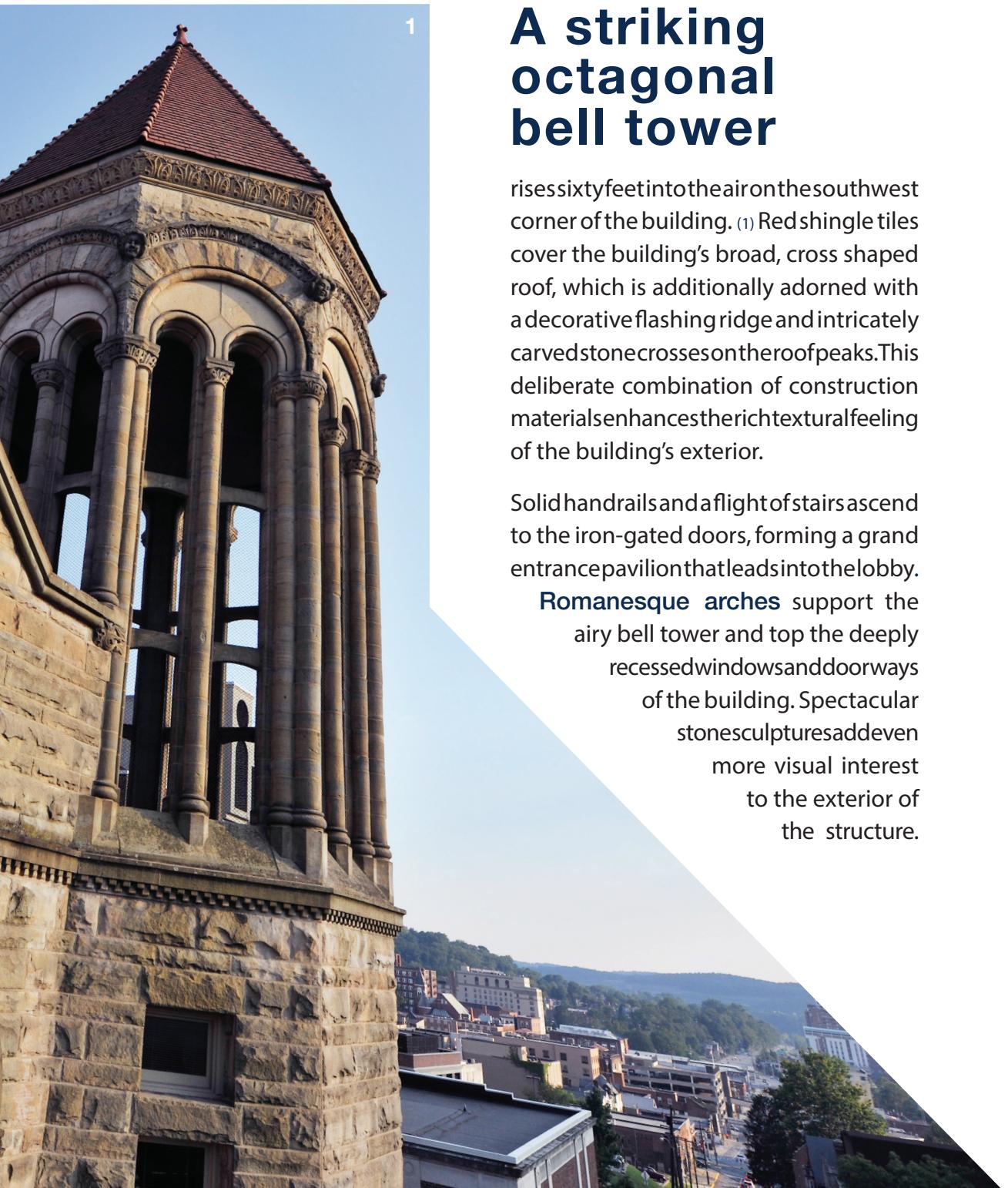


Stewart Hall's massive scale,

dramatic masonry, and elaborate architectural details make it a unique focus of the West Virginia University downtown campus. The building, which was originally constructed in 1902 to serve as the University's library and museum, has housed the campus administrative offices since the 1930s.

Stewart Hall's three-story structure, built of **gray Amherst sandstone**, is imposing and heavy in appearance. Although the building appears to be entirely stone, the exterior surface cleverly disguises reinforced concrete and steel inside the walls.





1

A striking octagonal bell tower

risessixtyfeetintotheaironthesouthwest corner of the building. (1) Red shingle tiles cover the building's broad, cross shaped roof, which is additionally adorned with a decorative flashing ridge and intricately carved stone crosses on the roof peaks. This deliberate combination of construction materials enhances the rich textural feeling of the building's exterior.

Solid handrails and a flight of stairs ascend to the iron-gated doors, forming a grand entrance pavilion that leads into the lobby.

Romanesque arches support the airy bell tower and top the deeply recessed windows and doorways of the building. Spectacular stone sculptures add even more visual interest to the exterior of the structure.



2



3



4



5

Stone faces and carved floral details adorn the building's exterior. (2-6)

Also intriguing are the stone owls on the back of the building and stone visages, carved in various degrees of distortion of the human face, on the façade. These add interest and character to the weighty masonry walls.

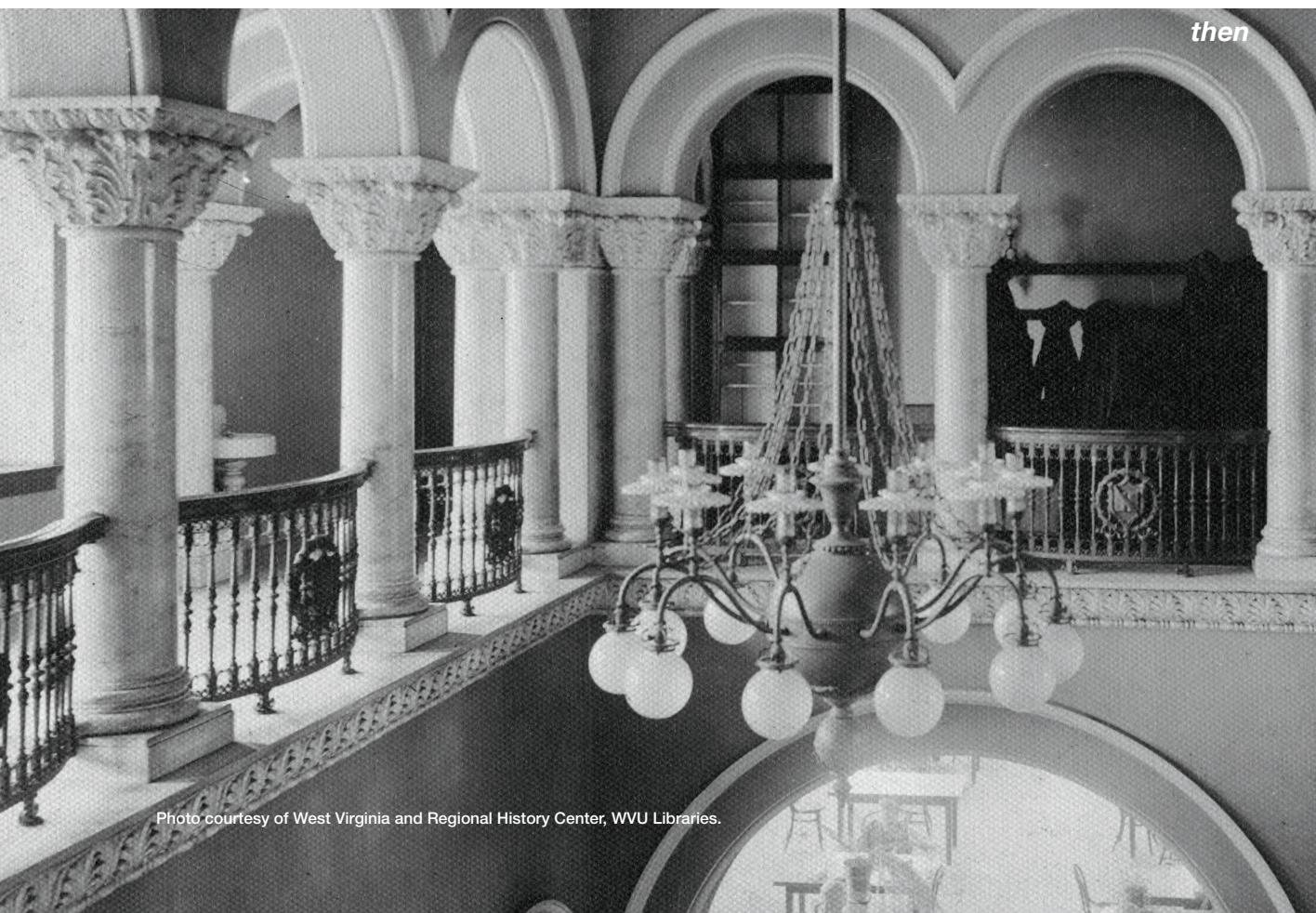


6

1



now



then

Photo courtesy of West Virginia and Regional History Center, WVU Libraries.



2

A two-story rotunda dominates the interior space of Stewart Hall. Tall arches around the perimeter add to the grandeur of this rectangular space. A large-scale brass chandelier hangs from a chain high above, drawing the eye upwards.⁽¹⁾ The fixture features two tiers of branched lighting, echoing the architectural choice of a two-tiered rotunda.

On the main floor, which houses the Office of the President, the columns supporting the rotunda feature acanthus leaf molding – and a whimsical surprise. Tiny mice peek from the leaves of each column and have long been a favorite secret of those who work in the building.⁽²⁾



1



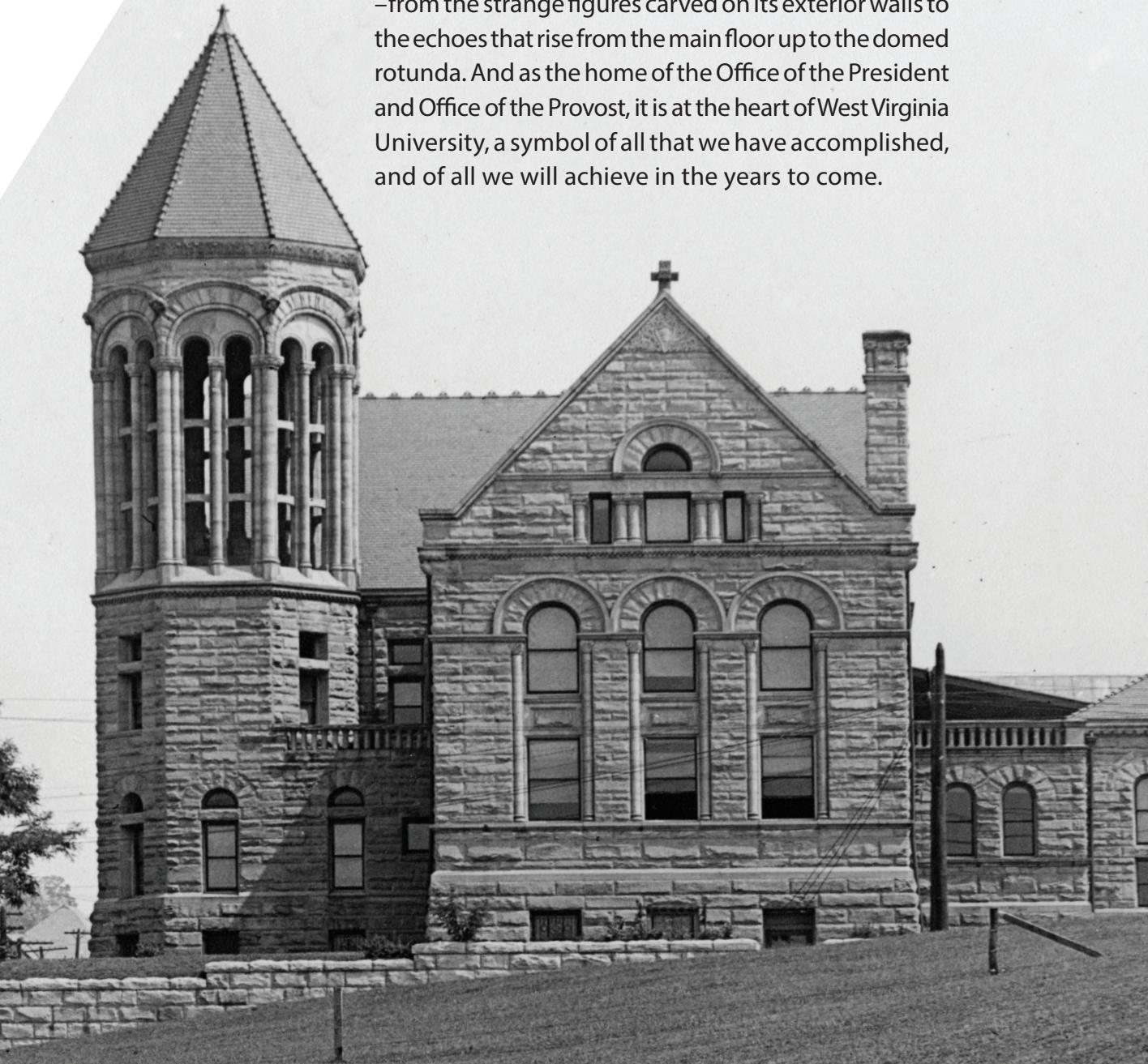
The second floor of Stewart Hall, which houses the Office of the Provost, is reached by ascending a wide staircase in the entry hall. From the open atrium area on this floor, a viewer can look down on the striking **black and white checkerboard floor** of the President's lobby.⁽¹⁾ The second floor was originally intended as an exhibit space for the University's natural history collection. Today, the **open lobby area** houses a rotating exhibit of art from the University's permanent collection.⁽²⁾



2

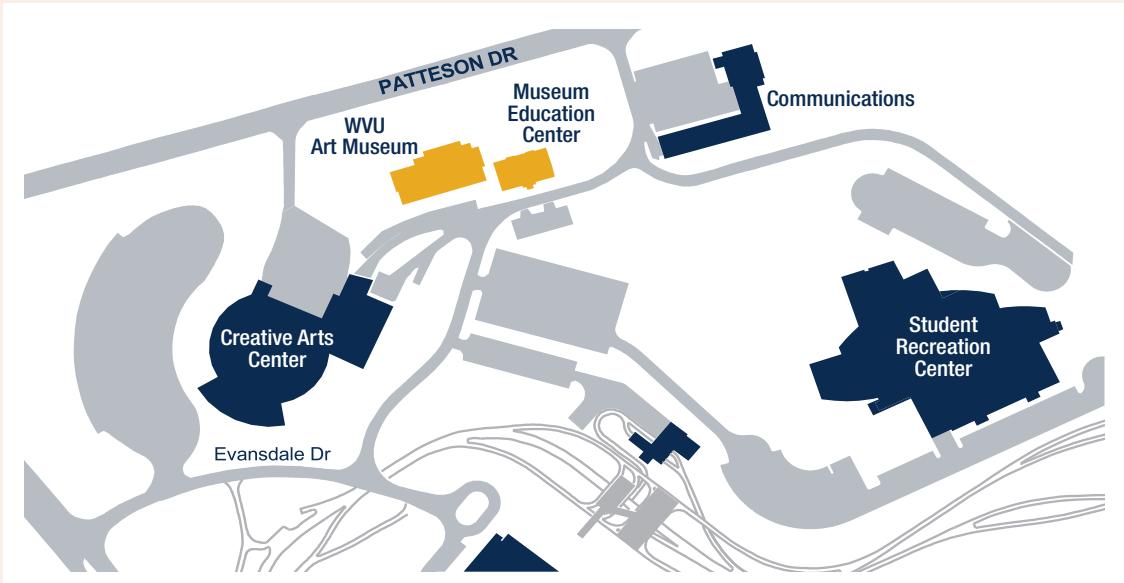


Stewart Hall is rich in architectural history and detail. It is also a soaring and even mysterious building –from the strange figures carved on its exterior walls to the echoes that rise from the main floor up to the domed rotunda. And as the home of the Office of the President and Office of the Provost, it is at the heart of West Virginia University, a symbol of all that we have accomplished, and of all we will achieve in the years to come.



Photos courtesy of the West Virginia and Regional History Center—WVU Libraries and Brian Persinger—WVU Photo Services. Original brochure text by Kari Graham (Class of 2001), revised and edited by Ann Claycomb—Office of the Provost. Art Card text by Bernie Shultz, Joy Ice, and Bob Bridges—Art Museum of WVU. Design by Sheree Wentz and Forrest Conroy—WVU University Relations.

The Art Museum of West Virginia University



The Art Museum will provide a welcoming and stimulating educational environment for diverse audiences to experience the transformative power of visual art. By exploring the varied artistic traditions of different cultures, past and present, visitors gain a better understanding of themselves, their communities, and their world.

Programs that support this mission include exhibitions organized from the museum's

collection, which includes paintings, prints, and works on paper, sculpture, ceramics, and folk art. The Art Museum will also bring touring exhibits to Morgantown. In conjunction with its various exhibits, the museum will present artist demonstrations, workshops, school programs, lectures, concerts, and theatrical performances that expand upon the exhibit themes and engage a range of multi-generational audiences in active learning across the disciplines.

For more information, please visit: artmuseum.wvu.edu