

Architectural

Showcase

Weld Boat House Renovation Harvard University Cambridge, MA

Douglas Okun & Associates
Cambridge, MA
*Associated Firm: Boston
Building Consultants
Boston, MA
Cost: \$750,000
Square Feet: 18,000
Occupancy: March 1990*

The Weld Boat House, completed in 1906, has become a symbol of the long and proud tradition of women's rowing and intramural rowing at Harvard University. Located on Memorial Drive overlooking the Charles River, The Weld Boat House has remained intact, functionally and architecturally, with little modification over the years.

The building's exterior is quite unique: Its walls are stucco and brick and its roof is covered with red tiles. The rooflines are highlighted and decorated. Unfortunately, the building was beginning to show its age; though the condition of the building's frame structure was predominantly sound, some of the architectural materials and structure had deteriorated.

Because of aesthetic ramifications, Boston Building Consultants recommended that the existing building materials that were sound and functioning be left in place and repaired when possible. Only materials deteriorated beyond repair would be replaced, and the replacement materials would be secondhand, whenever possible. Once repaired, the building would be relatively maintenance-free for another 25 years.

The conservation scheme was more



The landmark building's structure was predominantly sound, but its stucco and brick walls were beginning to show their age.

sympathetic to the patina of the existing building and was adopted by Harvard as the ideology behind the repairs of the Boat House. The wall and roof slate was left in place and only specific deteriorated tile was removed. The elaborate copper cresting on the roof and turrets of the building was repaired in place. General repairs also included floor sanding, patching and painting.

Built in 1906, The Weld, Harvard's second boat house, overlooks the Charles River.





The building's 18,000 square feet includes the restored rowing room (pictured), locker and shower rooms, several lounges, a carpenter shop and boat storage facilities.

Most of the windows and doors were kept, but were stripped of paint and reglazed using secondhand glass for replacement panes.



The roof's elaborate copper cresting and nearly all of the red slate tiles were repaired in place.

