



Architectural Remembrances – *from Yale alumni with YaleGALE in 2014*

Paul Broholm '78

My favorite space at Yale was probably the Branford Courtyard, a beautiful, spacious, yet intimate courtyard that was a meeting place for young scholars, frisbee players and jugglers, and friends. It was a perfect emblem of the intent to create a safe and intimate space in the midst of one of the world's great universities, and it succeeded wonderfully.



There are many buildings at Yale that are special for different reasons: the attention to detail in the colleges built in the 1930's, Connecticut Hall with its connection to the Revolutionary Era, but if I were to choose one building above all others, it would be Sterling Memorial Library, built as a cathedral to knowledge and wisdom. Here, too, there are many beautiful details, but the suggestion that knowledge can inspire to great things is itself inspiring.

Stuart Cohen '70

My sharpest memory of physical Yale was about 3 AM one night after I returned something to someone on the other side of the campus. There were no cars and no people. I walked down the middle of what are normally busy streets, with silent buildings especially the Gothic colleges looming up on either side. It was serene, noble and very quiet. The feeling was of being in a place that is as alive as the people who occupy it, now also sleeping in anticipation of another day.



I like the hockey rink, known as the Yale Whale and designed by architect Eero Saarinen. It's a ridiculous building, with a massive swooping roofline that lifts in the center as if it housed some tall or powerful object. But it's a hockey rink. The only thing inside is the flat ice surface and seating around it. The gesture of the design has no bearing on the function of the building, but it's fun and distinctive. You'd never see such a thing where use dictates design, but at a major university you can get away with such things.



The Old Campus is a place out of time. Such a large yard, ringed with buildings, all of them over 100 years old. It's a space designed for things to happen there, so big that almost anything can: walking, playing games, sitting in the sun, or many activities at once. The criss-cross of walkways leads you on one path or another but you don't have to stay on them. It feels safe, both a place held together by tradition and a blank canvas on which to create.

Kathy Edersheim '87

My favorite space at Yale is the meditation room at the (relatively new) St. Thomas More House. The room is octagonal in shape with stained glass windows and very little furniture. It is peaceful and beautiful. Although it did not exist when I was a student, the graciousness and calm of the space embody the ideals of Yale - encouraging the contemplation of new and different ideas.

My favorite architecture at Yale is the classic Harkness Tower. Harkness encloses the carillon which makes beautiful music throughout campus every evening around 5 o'clock. The Tower is the tallest structure around central campus. It looks like lace when you see the sky through the many openings of the structure. It has a grace and beauty rarely found in a stone structure. I've always loved the building and continue to enjoy it every time I see it when I'm on campus.



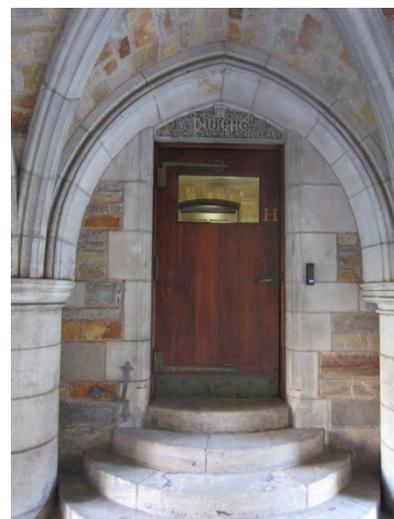
Tim Harkness '87

My favorite architectural space is the entrance to Payne Whitney Gym. Crossing the threshold into the gym was always, for me, like entering a cathedral or a cloister -- as the doors behind me closed, the building's



imposing stone enforced a hushed reverence for what was about to come and shut out the world from whence I had come. For me, that was usually water polo practice. Whatever I was about to do, that imposing entrance acted as a barrier to what was outside, allowing the gym to become a true sanctuary.

My favorite architectural feature of Yale is as mundane as it is ubiquitous -- the entry way. Most college dorms have hallways, but not Yale. The entry ways facilitate interaction and community in a way that I did not grasp while there. It finally hit me when I visited Yale-NUS (the residential college recently founded in Singapore by Yale and NUS), which is recreating the idea in a high-rise. The entry way has a daily and profound effect on student life.





Oliver Janney '67

I was especially fond of the reading areas in Sterling Library. The deep leather chairs in nooks with bookshelves nearby created a very cozy personal space. It felt more like home than an institution.

My favorite architecture at Yale was the juxtaposition of the Gothic residential colleges built in the 1930s with the striking modern architecture of Ingalls Rink and the Beinecke Rare Books Library. Saybrook College, where I lived, offered a taste of Oxford or Cambridge with leaded glass windows and stunning courtyards. Ingalls Rink and the Beinecke Library blended comfortably with the older architecture but also stunned the first-time viewer with their bold designs and materials.



Lynn Johnson '61

The transition from the institutional, impersonal feeling of the spacious Old Campus Quadrangle of freshman year to the almost cozy feeling of Calhoun College, the small residential college of my



sophomore, junior, and senior years was a welcome one. My two roommates and I were very fortunate to move for our senior year into a highly sought-after suite of rooms above the dining area. Our balcony, which overlooked the courtyard and afforded outdoor seating, soon became a popular gathering place, and we felt exceedingly comfortable there, perhaps even a bit regal as we presided over this coveted space.

The magnificent structures of Yale's campus, from Harkness Tower to the Commons, were initially very intimidating to me. When I saw the campus for the very first time – which was precisely the first day of my freshman year – the whole scene was quite overwhelming. However, with the typical bravado of the young, I very soon began to take it all for granted, thinking, "Oh, of course, this is what a good college is supposed to look like!"

Jennifer Julier '77

My favorite space is not necessarily the most beautiful space at Yale – at least not now. It is the L&B room in Sterling Library, a sea of armchairs and sofas upholstered in green, creaky leather flanked by medieval



study rooms with tables and chairs. The view out the windows of those study rooms is extraordinary in any season. As an undergraduate I would position myself in one of the armchairs and try to read. Too often I nodded off, or was distracted by the titles of the books on the shelves before me. (L&B houses what, by Yale standards, would be called “light reading” – novels of the present day and not-so-distant



past.) In recent years poor L&B has been slated for renovation year after year, but the space has been continually usurped by other library offices in need of a home during refurbishment. Like a doughty old matron, L&B is in dire need of a makeover; but once the new chairs, better lighting and fresh carpet arrive, will it be the same welcoming haven as before?

My favorite architecture at Yale is not a building but a category: Yale’s gargoyles and other sculpted adornment around campus. Installed for the most part during the Great Depression, these embellishments provided valuable work for stonemasons



and much-needed amusement for the students, faculty, staff and townsfolk who saw them take shape. It is impossible to walk around campus today and not discover a stone figure or a face that one has never noticed before. The gargoyles of Yale embody tradition, style, humor, and even mystery, and everyone has his favorite. A treasure of beauty and whimsy, Yale would not be the same without them.

Kate Philip '10

My favorite place on campus was the view from my junior year room in Jonathan Edwards. The room was part of a 10 person suite, and my room, which I shared with my roommate of three years, was a spacious double with a large bay window that overlooked the Yale University Art Gallery Sculpture Garden. Sitting



on a perch, staring through crisscrossed metal and glass windows, observing a tranquil space of artistic reflection transported me to a less complicated time and reminded me of how lucky I was to be at Yale.

My favorite architectural feature at Yale is the Kahn Gallery. Unlike any other art gallery that I’ve ever encountered, it is both modern and referential. As you walk through the galleries, you will be amazed at the flow between rooms and the spaciousness that highlights each and every work, elevating it to an even higher place.

Elliott Schlang '56

Space should, number one, make a person feel good. At Yale, the Freshman Quadrangle [Old Campus] made me feel good when as a student I was lonesome for home, exhausted from studying, beaten down by an unexpectedly disappointing grade, jilted by a fleeting “love” affair; even now when I visit the campus,



the Quad fills me with happy nostalgia. For those of you unfamiliar with the Freshman Quad, it is a green park about the size of a football field surrounded on the perimeter by 8 dorms, each with its distinctive architecture, criss-cross walks, and a very old wooden fence. The symmetry, the trees, the snow in winter, the view of changing seasons, the space



for outdoor sports, its use for graduation and other ceremonies, the feeling of security within it, the iron gates, its sense of history all added to the pleasure of my college years and it still makes me feel good when I visit.

By far my favorite architecture at Yale is the Harkness Bell Tower, the iconic symbol of Yale, donated so generously in the early 1900's by the the Harkness family of Standard Oil fame with, incidentally, their family roots in Cleveland which is also my home. The Tower's exquisite architecture, radiant symmetry, imposing heights and beauty, personification of strength, and, yes, since I am a music lover, the nostalgic sound of its melodic chimes marking the hours and quarter hours and on holidays, particularly over Christmas, the special treat of the bells beautifully sounding joyous Christmas carols—these all make it an unforgettable sight and treasure.

Vin Sharkey '66

My favorite space: The 1400 Club, a suite of rooms in Pierson College reserved for seniors, tucked away in an entryway serving only that suite and the Dean's office. It included a large living room with fireplace, a kitchen, a large bath and five bedrooms, large enough for seven students. Six friends and I won the lottery for the suite and spent a marvelous senior year in it, making lots of fires, eating countless pizzas, playing bridge or Hearts well into the night for months on end, and debating most of the important issues of the day. Ours was the last year of the 1400 Club; following our graduation it was converted into living space for the Dean.



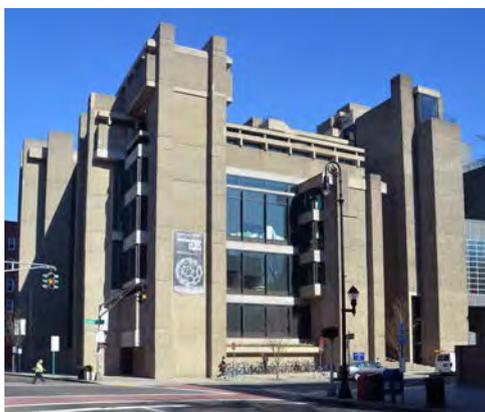
My favorite structure: Woolsey Hall/Commons. Yale can be a bit overwhelming at first, but then Mother Yale welcomes all of her freshmen to dine together for a full year in that magnificent, cavernous structure known as Commons, with massive wood beams that seem to extend farther into the distance than one can see, coats of arms hanging deep into that distance, and huge wooden tables



reminiscent of Medieval times. And right outside its doors a large circular marble foyer, engraved with the names of the thousands of Yale men who died in the service of our country from the very beginnings of our collective history. It makes you realize that Yale is a bigger place than the experiences of all of us who have been so privileged to have studied and lived there. Much bigger.

Ben Slotznick '70, '73 Dra

My favorite space was the Silliman attic – a place that no longer exists, having been renovated into more standard uses. When I was at Yale, it was “found space” used as a small theater, and I watched, acted in, or designed sets and lighting for more than half-a-dozen shows. The shape and shadows of steeply pitched



roof rafters, massive brick chimneys and cavernous recesses above the eaves, taught me much about designing in three-dimensions.

My favorite architecture is the Rudolph Building, a prime example of Brutalist architecture – but it always felt warm to me. Stairwells were womb-like, even cozy, but opened into large lofty open areas. I loved the many – and always interesting – transitions between varied levels and spaces.

Francesca Spiegel '08 MA

My favourite space at Yale was on any top floor of old campus looking at the landscape of bell towers and other neo-gothic spires from above, especially at night. They seemed to form a quad beyond the quad, it was a bit ghostly and reminded me of Jacques Brel's song "Le plat pays" with spiky gothic bell towers, blackened sandstone, and little gargoyles. I especially enjoyed it if any of the bells were ringing.

Most of the time I felt dwarfed by the imposing, outsized architecture and furnishings at Yale; I thought it oppressive. For this reason, I particularly liked the philosophy department, one of the oldest if not *the* oldest campus building. It has pleasing proportions, lots of lovely low windows, really helpfully conducive to the careful reflection needed to disentangle complex logical issues!

Anke Tietz '11 PhD

My favorite place at Yale was the Classics Library at the 5th – the top – floor of Phelps Gate, where, as a graduate student I had my own desk, intimately hidden within a labyrinth of bookshelves. The dark, wooden floors, the portraits of renowned scholars, the old fireplace (though it wasn't in use), the soft armchairs, the thousands of books, and the occasional whispering of fellow students created a cozy, warm, welcoming atmosphere. A few steps, through the fire escape door, and one was on the roof of Phelps, where we would sneak out to clear our heads, have a forbidden cigarette or a sip of wine, take in the view



over Old Campus or the night sky and enjoy a feeling of freedom before we went back to our research.

As a huge hockey fan, my favorite architecture is the David S. Ingalls Rink, the hockey rink designed by Eero Saarinen in the 1950ies. Also known as the “Yale Whale”, the building with its curved, humpbacked roof resembles a whale indeed and looks incredibly cool. Having undergone various phases of renovations, Ingalls has kept its charm and character, while at the same time has all the amenities of a modern sports arena to offer that any hockey fan could dream of – cheering for the Yale hockey team was the highlight on many weekends during my time at Yale.



Katy Wells 91 JD



My favorite space is the Law School Courtyard, which is guarded on one side by the large Gothic stained glass windows of the Lilian Goldman Law Library. Since the 1930s, students, faculty, and staff have been gathering in the Courtyard to study, meet, and relax. I first entered this inviting space as a college senior on a campus visit with my father; I ended my student days there at a Courtyard graduation ceremony featuring American author, activist, and civil rights leader Coretta Scott King; and I visit during reunions as an alumna inspired by the next

generation enjoying its unique brand of shade and sunlight.

My favorite architecture is the Sterling Law Building, which houses the Law School and occupies one city block. It was constructed in 1929-31, modeled on the English Inns of Court, and built in the “Collegiate Gothic style.” Amused, awed, and inspired, I enjoyed my time there as a student under the constant watch of the whimsical stone, wood and glass embellishments adorning the building - symbols of law and justice that include main characters in legal dramas, scenes of adjudication and punishment, and famous legal figures from cultures around the world (ranging from King Solomon and Confucius to Charlemagne).