

VISUAL ARTS Briefs

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Summer Renovations: The Jackhammer's Sweet Song of Renewal



In what is becoming a rite of summer at SVA, the College is undertaking major renovations. The main project this season is the complete rebuilding of the offices of continuing education, the registrar, and financial aid at 209 and 205 East 23 Street. The job is scheduled for completion at the end of August. It's a major project that involves gut renovation, which includes demolition of the old spaces and the installation of new floors, walls, windows, bathrooms, air conditioning, sprinklers, fire alarms, security systems, network cabling and hardware, and electrical systems.

Nietzsche said he who must be a creator must be an annihilator first, and to build a temple of grand stature one must first be demolished. The gut renovation is truly Nietzschean in its insistence on obliterating the old to make way for the new. The seeds of the glittering new space can be found in the maimed walls, scattered debris, and mangled fixtures of the just completed demolition.

The renovations will result in a more efficient layout for each of the respective administrative offices; they will each have contiguous space, whereas before they were spread out and overlapped with one another in places. The design of the new space is highly functional and is intended to create a comfortable environment that will help expedite and alleviate the administrative tasks of students, faculty, and staff. Visitors to the new offices will, for example, be able transact their business without having to visit multiple areas.

At SVA, unlike other institutions of higher learning, the renovation process-including approvals, planning, and execution-is quite streamlined; an extensive project like the one described above can take no more than five or six months from concept to move-in. It gives SVA the ability to respond rapidly to a changing environment, especially increasing student enrollment and new staff; this is a tremendous competitive advantage and a great boon to the SVA community.

Be sure to watch VA Briefs and SVA-NET for more summer construction updates.



[Update of construction project described above]

Fall Renewal: Major Renovation of SVA Offices Finished

This summer's major construction project at SVA, the complete rebuilding of the offices of Continuing Education, the Registrar, and Financial Aid at 209 and 205 East 23 Street, is finished. For all the pummeled sheetrock and demolished hardware that initiated this "gut renovation," the job is a smashing success. The renovations, spearheaded by the Office of Facilities Management, were intended to provide the respective offices with better layouts; improve the efficiency of their operations; and ultimately improve the experience of everyone who uses the spaces, including students, faculty and staff.

The new spaces have a sleek, contemporary ambience and radiate a crisp functionality. But no one could possibly mistake these offices for anything other than what they are: the operational hub of an esteemed, tradition-rich institution of art education. To underscore this effect, the walls of several areas, especially the Registrar's office, are emblazoned with the famous SVA subway posters. The posters, selected and installed by staff from the Visual Arts Museum, combine to form a visual timeline of SVA and are representative of various eras, disciplines, and faculty-artists at the College.

In another key part of this renovation, the mezzanine of 209 East 23 was transformed into a sparkling new complex, christened the Data Center. Here, the Office of Administrative Computing has consolidated essential elements of its operation, including the servers that power the College's Internet, e-mail, and Colleague (database) applications. Offices for some Administrative Computing staff are also part of the new Data Center. These computing functions have been centralized in order to improve their security and operation, and to accommodate future expansion of the technology training facilities.

Another aspect of the renovation is the newly created faculty office on the lower level of 209 East 23 Street. SVA faculty members now have a place exclusively for themselves, equipped with a computer, fax machine, and more. For the go-go professional faculty of SVA, this new facility will undoubtedly prove to be a welcome addition.