places in time

COUZENS HALL 2011
The Honorable James Couzens was a business leader, a public servant and a philanthropist. He partnered with Henry Ford in 1903 and served as the vice president and general manager of Ford Motor Company. In 1919, he was elected Mayor of Detroit and, in 1922, was appointed to the United States Senate.

Senator Couzens’ philanthropic works included major gifts for the establishment of the Children’s Fund of Michigan, relief work in Detroit during the Great Depression and the construction of Couzens Hall and other nurses’ residences. His charitable works totaled $30 million – the sum he received when he sold his interest in Ford Motor Company in 1919.
Opened in 1925, Couzens Hall was the campus residence for student and graduate nurses. Several years later, the Central Nurses Residence was named after its benefactor, The Honorable James Couzens.

In addition to living spaces for nurses, Couzens Hall served as the home for the School of Nursing. The lower level included classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, an amphitheater, an assembly hall and a game room. University Housing acquired the building in 1954 from the University Hospital, and two years later an addition to the east end was completed, more than doubling the occupancy. Space in the lower level was repurposed to include a full-service dining hall.

In 2010, Couzens Hall was closed for a comprehensive renovation, one of the major projects of the Residential Life Initiatives – a multi-year plan to revitalize campus housing at U-M and to create stronger connections between living and learning. The work has included major upgrades to the infrastructure, a new fire suppression system, temperature control for heating and air conditioning in all student rooms, new bathrooms, and new community spaces for study and relaxation. Additional insulation was installed in exterior walls, and windows have been replaced or reglazed to improve the energy efficiency of the building.

The renovation design for Couzens Hall was developed by the architectural firms Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas Company and Integrated Design Solutions, incorporating ideas generated from students, faculty and staff, and planning teams.
Community Center
The entrance from East Ann Street opens into a dynamic foyer and Community Center, a gathering space and information hub for residents and staff. Digital screens provide information about goings-on in the Couzens community, around the campus and across the world. The wood paneling is complemented by photomurals that relate the building’s historical connections to the University’s nursing program and to benefactor James Couzens.

The Community Center also includes resident mailboxes; offices for staff; a work room for residence staff; a conference room; and a house kitchen.

A ramp provides easy access for all students traveling between the Community Center and the east wing. Adjacent to the ramp is the Housing Security office.

Living Room
The paneled living room provides a comfortable and gracious place for students to relax, study or to hold special activities. A covered porch overlooks Palmer Field.

CAMEO Lounge (not shown)
Since the late 1980s, University Housing has incorporated multicultural lounges into the residential communities. The lounges provide places for group meetings and special events that advance understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultures, social identities and experiences that compose our student population and our world. The CAMEO (Couzens Active Minority Ethnic Organization) Lounge is furnished to accommodate meetings, programs and receptions.
Grand Stairway
At one side of the Community Center, a portion of the floor was removed to create a new grand stairway with natural lighting leading to the social and learning areas on the Palmer Field level. The stairway showcases an additional photomural relative to the history of Couzens Hall. At the base of the stairs are seating arrangements where students can relax or study.

Student Rooms 2110 and 2119
All of the student rooms in Couzens Hall feature new smoke detection, fire alarm and sprinkler systems, wireless Internet access and data lines, air conditioning and individual thermostats to control room temperatures between 68 and 75 degrees. The modular furniture allows students to loft, bunk or trundle their beds for flexible use of their space.

Student Bathrooms
All student bathrooms have new plumbing, fixtures and counters. Ceramic tile is used throughout for practicality as well as good looks. Reduced flow and dual-flush toilets reduce water consumption, and shower/toilet areas have been arranged for maximum privacy.
Common Area
The lower level of Couzens Hall includes new community and learning spaces that occupy the former dining hall and kitchen areas. On this level are three soundproof music practice rooms; a group study and conference suite; new class and seminar rooms; learning community offices; the laundry; the students’ Residence Halls Association offices; and several other important spaces. A built-in countertop holds computers that residents and visitors can use to check their emails, bus schedules, dining hall menus, news and more. The foyer of the new entrance off Palmer Field is accented by a continuation of the history photomurals.

Community Learning Center
The Community Learning Center offers computers, printers, a “copy-cam” that digitally reproduces writing on a whiteboard, and a Steelcase media:scape, enabling several people to plug their laptops into the system and share their work on the large flat screen. There is plenty of room for studying, including partitioned areas for individuals and small groups. The raised floor conceals all wiring for the computers; and the carpet squares and floor can be lifted in small sections to access the wiring or to change the placement of power and network outlets. There is wireless network access throughout the building.
1) Game Room
Glass walls, comfortable seating and fun colors make this an inviting space for Couzens residents and students living in other Hill neighborhood residence halls to enjoy ping-pong, billiards and foosball. Large display screens can be used for gaming or to watch television or DVDs.

Palmer Lounge
This lounge is open and available to residents and other students living “on the Hill.” Vending machines offer a selection of beverages, snacks and light food to enjoy at the mix of café tables, tall chairs and soft seating. The centerpiece of the lounge is the unique curved half-wall, underneath a distinctive pattern of suspended ceiling accents with lights. The concave side of the wall is translucent and is illuminated from within by multicolored LED lights to create a colorful backdrop for student performances and presentations.

Multipurpose Room
The multipurpose room is an ideal venue for programs, receptions, screenings and other events. The room is equipped with a complete audio-visual system with three projectors and drop-down screens to accommodate room set-ups from traditional auditorium style to banquets to round-table seating for up to 300 people. A service kitchen is located adjacent to the multipurpose room.
NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Senior Director for Institutional Equity, and Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Office of Institutional Equity, 2072 Administrative Services Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1432, 734-763-0235, TTY 734-647-1388. For other University of Michigan information call 734-764-1817.