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The loading dock area of the University of Michigan's Mosher-Jordan residence hall will be renovated into a multilevel grand entrance on Observatory Street in Ann Arbor. Below, vintage mailboxes in Mosher-Jordan.

# Vintage, revamped

## Internet, common areas planned for classic U-M dorm

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Mosher-Jordan, a 75-year-old residence hall at the University of Michigan with an intimate feel and classic architecture, is about to get a lot of 21st century touches.

High-speed wireless Internet access is coming. So is air-conditioning. Bathrooms will be reconfigured for the privacy expected by today's students.

A kitchen and two dining spaces, which won't be needed anymore because of plans for a separate new dining facility nearby, will be turned into new common areas. Students will be able to relax on couches and watch television in new "living rooms."

Housing officials say students will be able to study alone or in groups, and



SEE MOSHER-JORDAN, B3

# Multilevel entrance to be built in place of loading dock

practice class presentations in the newly designed spaces. Students may even take a class inside a flexible-seating classroom that's a just a short distance from their rooms.

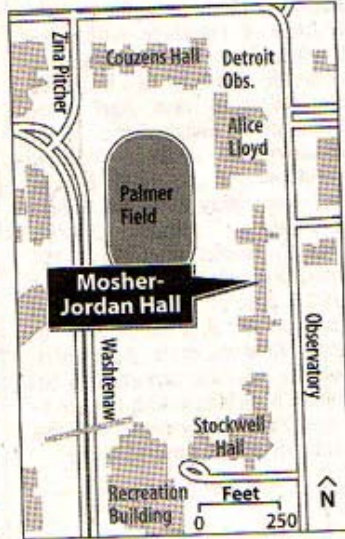
U-M's Board of Regents on Thursday approved the \$44.1 million renovation project for Mosher-Jordan, the most expensive renovation of a dormitory in the university's history, housing officials say.

"This was a really well-built building that deserves to be not only kept up, but really substantially renovated and enhanced," said Alan Levy, University Housing's spokesman.

A tentative timetable calls for Mosher-Jordan, which houses about 500 students, to close for construction after students move out in the spring of 2006.

While it's closed, U-M will house undergraduates in some of the Northwood apartment units on North Campus. Those units traditionally had been used for married students and family housing, but some of them were converted to undergraduate housing last fall because of the larger-than-expected first-year class. U-M does not plan to have another class that's so large.

Most of the renovation work will happen inside Mosher-Jordan, but there will be one big



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change to the building's exterior: A multi-level, well-defined main entrance will be built on the facade facing Observatory Street, in place of an existing loading dock.

"It will be a focal point to draw students in," said Kathy Comisiak, University Housing's capital planner.

The firm Goody Clancy & Associates of Boston will design the renovations. The work is the first major renovation of a residence hall in the Residential Life Initiatives, a series of projects aimed at improving its

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stock of residence halls and more closely tying students' living experiences with the university's academic mission.

"We remain focused on improving the residential experience of our students," U-M President Mary Sue Coleman told regents at their meeting in Dearborn Thursday.

Already, the university has committed itself to building a new \$137 million residence hall at the site of the Frieze Building, the former Ann Arbor High School, at State and Huron streets. It also will build a \$21 million marketplace-style dining complex next to Mosher-Jordan that will serve the other residence halls on The Hill as well.

The Mosher-Jordan project

will respect the aesthetic appearance of the six-story residence hall, built in 1930, but significantly improve its infrastructure. New heating systems will be installed. The old radiators in the dorm rooms will be removed, along with the old pipes that crawl up the walls in some rooms.

An 8,000-square-foot building will be built to house some of the new mechanical equipment, such as a more efficient air-conditioning system, necessary since the building is used year-round, including conferences in the summer, Levy said.

Room and board rates charged to students in the residence halls pay for part of the Residential Life Initiatives' cost. In the case of Mosher-Jordan, university investment proceeds also are being tapped.

In a separate vote, regents approved hiking room and board rates for next fall. They'll go up by an average of 4.9 percent in the residence halls, meaning that students living in a double room in a traditional hall will pay \$7,374. Rates will go up by 5 percent for students living in family housing or the undergraduate apartments.

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