

John G. Waite, FAIA featured speaker in lecture series “Restoring Thomas Jefferson’s Rotunda for the 21st Century”



John G. Waite, FAIA, Sr. Principal at John G. Waite Associates, Architects PLLC, recently spoke at the University of Virginia as part of the Hanbury Evans Vlattas Wright Endowed Lecture in Architecture series in a talk titled: “Restoring Thomas Jefferson’s Rotunda for the 21st Century”.

The lecture focused on the recent comprehensive restoration of the Rotunda undertaken by the firm.

Despite a devastating fire in 1895, and a total gutting in the 1970’s, the Rotunda still serves as the centerpiece and symbol of the University of Virginia. The current restoration, beginning with the preparation of a historic structure report in 2007, will be completed later this year after a four-year construction period. During this process of archival research and physical investigations, important new information has been uncovered on the rich and complex history of the building, culminating in the discovery of the original chemical hearth which was buried in the walls of the Rotunda for 175 years.



The recent work on the Rotunda included a complete restoration of the interior and exterior, as well as the replacement of old building systems including the construction of new mechanical rooms beneath the Rotunda.

