

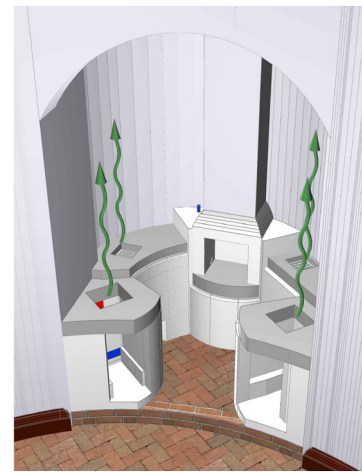
John G. Waite Associates, Architects PLLC Uncovers Jefferson Era Chemistry Lab



John G. Waite Associates, Architects PLLC's Rotunda project at the University of Virginia was recently featured on *Yahoo News* in an article titled: "What we can learn about the discovery of Thomas Jefferson's chemistry lab at the University of Virginia". The article details how during their comprehensive interior and exterior restoration of the Rotunda, JGWA came to discover the chemical hearth and why it remained hidden all these years.

Principal-in-Charge Clay S. Palazzo, AIA says when asked about the discovery, "Because our firm is founded on the philosophy that thorough archival research and extensive examination of the building fabric should be the first step in any project, it is not uncommon that a historic building will reveal more of itself than originally anticipated, and the Rotunda was no exception. The restoration of the Rotunda began with the completion of a historic structure report, which has been used as the foundation for architectural drawings and specifications for treatment of the building, all completed by our firm. We quickly realized that there was more to learn when we uncovered this never-before-documented chemistry laboratory that was designed by Professor John P. Emmet (the University's professor for the

School of Natural History) in consultation with Jefferson himself nearly 200 years ago. Research by our architectural history consultant Diana S. Waite of Mount Ida Press, in both the United States and Great Britain, provided interesting information on the conception



of the chemical hearth and the fact that it is one of the few, if not only, laboratories of its period to survive today. The chemical hearth will be preserved and interpreted as part of the current project to rehabilitate and restore the Rotunda."

This discovery was also recently highlighted by the *Washington Post*, *ABC News*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *National Public Radio*.

