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## Gothic Revival at Vanderbilt

*New dorm's elegant doors feature custom millwork and African mahogany.*

BY BRYAN MCMAKIN

**In the summer of 2016, Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, began a three-phase, \$600 million construction project that would demolish two older dormitories and replace them with a single 205,000-square-foot facility.**

The new Barnard Hall dorm is designed to house 340 upperclassmen. The living-learning facility-style concept of the dorm adheres to the recent trend in education that focus on complete immersion and community building. It features dining halls, meeting rooms, study spaces, shared kitchens and laundry facilities.

For the Division 8 portion of the project, McCarthy, Jones & Woodward (MJW), a division of The Cook & Boardman Group LLC, was tasked with supplying and installing the doors, frames and hardware.

"The design and inspiration was derived from Ivy League universities in the Northeast," says Brice Anderson, Senior Project Manager at MJW. "This project was a starting point for the university to improve and expand the student housing to accommodate the number of students entering college in recent years."

The complexity of the sophisticated design created a result that is aesthetically pleasing and unique.

"The project was quite ornate, with four different wood veneer species on doors, not to mention the sheer volume of mill and stonework around the door openings," Anderson says. "It was as elegant as anything I've worked on in my 16 years of experience."

### MILLWORK AND MAHOGANY

For the custom millwork wooden doors, MJW brought in Exactitude, another Cook & Boardman division. Jason Ring, the Senior Project Manager at Exactitude, described the pre-installation necessary for their piece of the project.

"Due to the configuration of the door layout, the wire harness had to be installed in-house before glazing the glass and shipping the door to the customer," says Ring. "It would have been impossible to fish the harness around multiple 90-degree corners on-site to reach the lockset. Installation teams appreciate the fact that the plug is there and ready when they install the mortise lockset."



A set of finished custom-milled mahogany doors ready to ship from Exactitude's location in Maine to the job site in Tennessee.

Exactitude pre-machined the doors to receive the mortise exit device, pivot hinges, floor closer and door contacts on-site. With coordination between MJW and Exactitude, the gothic frames were delivered to Exactitude so the gothic top radius could be confirmed and the uniform sizing around the gothic frame opening ensured.

Exactitude provided doors for 16 openings across Barnard Hall, all custom milled from African mahogany. Many of the doors stay true to the gothic architectural theme that is a hallmark of the Vanderbilt campus. "As an example, the faculty entrance door is made of FSC-certified mahogany and is a Gothic top stile and rail style with custom glass lite layout and custom stained finish," Ring says.

### THE RIGHT FRAME

Steelcraft manufactured the F-Series three-sided flush frames installed by MJW. Known for their durability and long-term commercial functionality, each frame features die-mitered corner



Above: The gothic-style faculty entrance door during pre-installation at the manufacturer. Top right: The 8-foot-4-inch faculty entrance door after final installation. Bottom right: One of the many student entrances to the living-learning style dormitory, Barnard Hall.

connections at the head and jamb; universal hinge preparations that allow for easy field conversions; adjustable base anchors; and factory-applied, baked-on, rust-inhibiting primer. The overall frame construction, hardware preparations and reinforcements meet the requirement for ANSI A250.8-2014 and the broadest fire rating and safety requirements for neutral pressure testing and positive pressure standards.

### SECURING THE DOOR

When it comes to security, Anderson says that the university carefully chose the security options it needed. "They were in tune with the security aspect of ensuring the safety of their students and staff via access control and surveillance cameras," he says. Among the pieces installed were Von Duprin latch bolt and push pad monitor switches, quiet electric latch retraction, and other electrical options like Von Duprin's 98/99 series RX Request to Exit, LX Latchbolt Monitoring and SS Emergency Exit Signal Switches. The locking systems include ASSA ABLOY's Fail-Secure Mortise locks and Integrated Door Position switches.

Barnard Hall was completed in the summer of 2018 and was awarded LEED Gold certification for high-performance, sustainable building. Upon completion, Vanderbilt Chancellor and Provost Susan Wentz expressed her gratitude for a beautiful facility and expectations for a bright future. "I congratulate [those] whose vision and talents have created this remarkable residential college, which will provide sustainable living and learning spaces for generations of students to come." +



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