

RMC FRIDAY FOCUS – The Rotunda

January 13, 2017

On the campus of the University of Virginia sits a building almost two centuries old, and inspired by Rome's ancient Pantheon. Designed by Thomas Jefferson as a library and the focal point of the new university, the Rotunda symbolizes his dedication to education and has provided a space for learning among UVA's student population.

The Rotunda was constructed from 1822 to 1826, and since then has undergone multiple renovations. In 1853 a new structure called the Annex was added to the Rotunda as a way of adding space for classrooms, and after the Rotunda was suffered damage from a large fire in 1895 the wooden dome was replaced with fireproof tile.



During the Bicentennial in 1976 the entire interior of the Rotunda was rebuilt, and finally the building recently re-opened in September of 2016 after a 4-year renovation project.

The students, faculty, and all visitors of the University of Virginia have the great privilege to view – and for some even learn in – one of the greatest pieces of architecture in American history.