

OU eyes addition

Science center to change campus look

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

After more than two decades of planning — and frustration — Oakland University is proceeding with the 165,000-square-foot science and technology addition.

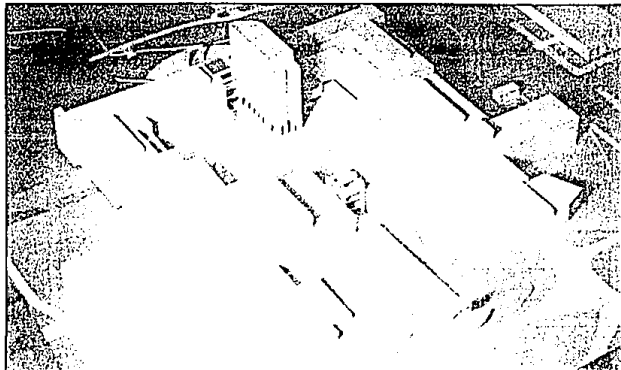
"We've been talking about the addition since the late 1960s," explained George Dahlgren, OU vice provost and dean of graduate study. "But now it looks like we're going ahead."

The addition was discussed briefly last Wednesday during what was scheduled to be a meeting of the OU Board of Trustees. The session was downgraded to a committee-of-the-whole meeting when only four of the eight trustees showed up.

Five trustees are needed for a quorum.

The committee-of-the-whole could not take any action, but could only make recommendations that would be subsequently reviewed — and voted upon — by the Board of Trustees.

ATTENDING THE meeting were: Larry W. Chunovich, Phyllis Law Googasian, Stephen Sharf and Howard F. Sims, vice chairperson. Absent were: Patricia B. Hartmann, chairperson, Ken Morris, David Handelman and James A. Sharp Jr.



The new \$35 million science and technology center featuring an 8-story math center will create a different skyline at Oakland University, as this picture of the model indicates. The

center will be added to Dodge and Hanna halls on the southwest part of the main campus near University Drive and Squirrel Road in Auburn Hills.

Lack of a quorum did not dampen discussion about the science and technology addition.

"The addition will be a major

visual attraction to the campus," said Dennis M. King, senior vice president of architects Harley Ellington Pierce Yee Associates Inc.

"The tower (eight stories) will be tall enough to be noticed, but not so

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It's time for grande dame to get facelift

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

The grande dame of Oakland University is due for an expensive facelift.

Meadow Brook Hall, an often overlooked architectural jewel, will get a \$1.8 million exterior restoration — a gift in the name of the woman who built the Tudor mansion and helped establish Oakland University.

The restoration will be done over two years with a grant from the Matilda H. Wilson Fund, named after the daughter of a Canadian farmer who later became one of the most wealthy and accomplished women in America.

Details of the grant — and the restoration — were discussed last week during a committee-of-the-whole meeting of the OU Board of Trustees.

"We're absolutely thrilled," said Margaret H. Twyman, the hall's managing director. "The restoration is quite a project."

It's not that Meadow Brook Hall is falling on hard times. . . or is in a state of disrepair.

Au contraire. The 110-room mansion, used now to host weddings and conferences, bespeaks a well-kept elegance with its sparkling Tiffany glass windows, polished oak beams and original art work.

It's just that Meadow Brook Hall — like the aging beauty she is — is starting to show the years, according to Paul A. McDowell, a former teacher who is now the hall's assistant manager.

Any repairs, of course, can not be done willy-nilly — not if Meadow Brook's Elizabethan charm and grandeur are to be maintained.

THE BRICK and granite structure of the castle-like mansion is in mint condition — thanks in part to successful fund-raisers like the Concours d'Elegance, the annual antique auto show.

But there's a long list of irksome problems that, if left unattended, could lead to even more structural problems in later years.

Some of its stately timbers are rotting. The cement tuck-pointing is deteriorating. The sandstone is chipped or cracked in places. Masonry on the floor of the elegant gazebo is cracked and leaks water that damages the ceiling of what used to be the peeling room.

The granite needs cleaning.

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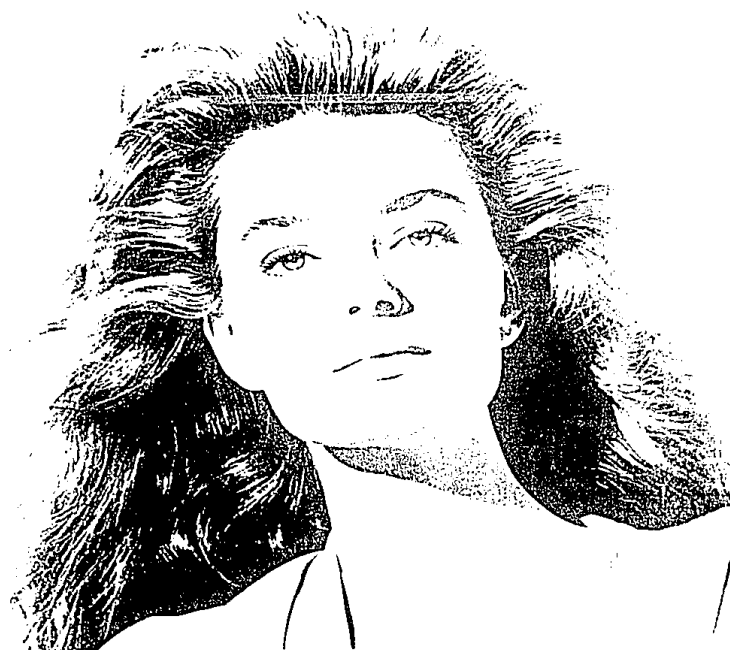
Sandblasting might do for some buildings. But not for the house that Matilda built.

The restoration must be accomplished without trace — with the precision of an accomplished plastic surgeon.

So, like an aging dowager might

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ESTÉE LAUDER SIGNATURE COLLECTION



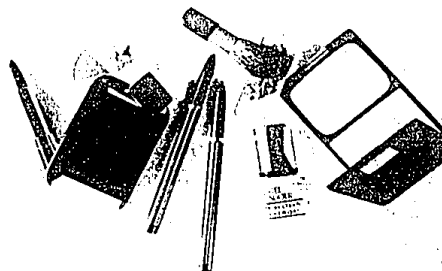
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Assistant manager Paul McDowell points to some of the window areas to be restored.