

Future Dharma Realm Buddhist University Building Renovation Begins

法界佛教大學規劃整修未來的主建築



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On a bright August morning, Dharma Realm Buddhist University administrators, architects, and engineers gather across the street from Building 123. Everyone talks animatedly, shaping with their hands and eagerly describing their observations to one another to kick off the renovation of the future Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) Main Building.

The 65,000 square-foot complex is the second largest building on the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas campus, located just east of the Developing Virtue Boys School. Known to City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) residents as Building 123, the future DRBU Main Building was originally built in the 1950's as part of the Mendocino State Hospital. The university plans to carry out the change of occupancy and renovation project in several phases.

With the launch of the new Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degree programs and the significant strides made toward formal accreditation, DRBU is currently experiencing an unprecedented growth that has resulted in a critical and imminent need for adequate space. The University has outgrown the capacity of its current building.

The first phase of the change of occupancy project, scheduled to be completed

一個晴朗八月天的上午，在萬佛聖城的123建築物對面，法大行政主管與建築師、工程師聚在一起，熱烈地交換意見，比劃、描述著他們的觀察，揭開了法大未來主建築整修計劃的序幕。

這棟佔地6萬5,000平方呎的建築，是萬佛聖城內第二大建築物。位於培德育良中小學男校東邊，萬佛聖城住眾都稱它為123建築物。這棟法大未來的主建築興建於1950年代，原為曼都仙諾州立療養院的一部分。法大計劃分期進行這棟建築的變更使用與整修工程。

法大近年推出新的學士與碩士學程，並在申請美國大學評鑑聯盟認證方面獲得大幅進展，法大正經歷前所未有的成長，使得目前的校舍已不敷使用，增加

in the Fall of 2016, encompasses the South Wing and will provide approximately 25,000 square feet of much-needed space for classrooms, study areas, offices, meeting rooms, a Chan hall, and student activities. The university community recently completed a lively daylong discussion around their aspirations for the University's new home, enthusiastically exchanging ideas about space and design with architects.

Project manager Kristine Ang Go shared the spirit of the renovation, "In the same way that our academic program activates the intrinsic wisdom of the students, we want to bring out the inherent characteristics and strengths of the future DRBU Main Building. The buildings on the CTTB campus are incredibly well-built and can last hundreds of years. Our job is to uncover their latent qualities and allow them to shine through."

Venerable Master Hsuan Hua designated Building 123 to house the main educational programs of Dharma Realm Buddhist University. According to Wayne Chen, Director of Development, "During his lectures on the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, the Venerable Master compared the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to the Jeta Grove (Jetavana) and the future DRBU Main Building to the Great Towering Pavilion where the Buddha spoke a few chapters of the *Avatamsaka Sutra*. He tasked us to build a great university that would benefit the world. We are humbled by his vision. At the same time, we are very happy to be making progress toward the Venerable Master's vow with the new degree programs and our progress toward accreditation. Building spaces is a crucial element of our plan, and we appreciate everyone's support to make this project a reality."

To learn more, please visit www.drбу.org or contact the Office of Development at development@drбу.org. ❀



新的教學空間已是燃眉之急。

主建築變更使用計劃的第一階段工程可望於2016年秋完工，將使用這棟主建築的南翼，約有2萬5,000平方呎，規劃做為教室、自習室、辦公室、會議室、



禪堂、學生活動室等最為需要的空間。法大不久前才舉行了全校師生的討論，對於這棟未來新校區的空間設計，與建築師熱烈交換意見。

整修計畫之專案經理蔡禎禎分享了這項計劃的精神，她指出：「正如法大的課程要啟發學生本有的智慧，我們也希望發揮這棟建築本有的特色與力量。萬佛聖城的建築物當初蓋得非常好，主體結構可以使用數百年。我們要做的，就是將這些建築潛在的特質發揮出來，使其散發光采。」

宣公上人住世時，即指定123建築物為法大的授課場所。法大發展處主任陳頌明指出：「上人在講解《華嚴經》時，曾比喻萬佛聖城為『祇樹給孤獨園』，並將法大未來的主建築比喻為佛說《華嚴經》的『大莊嚴重閣』。上人囑咐我們要辦一所一流的大學，能夠利益全世界。面對上人的願力，我們自當嚴謹精進努力，以不負所託。整修法大未來的主建築，是我們整體計劃中的重要關鍵。非常感恩各界人士共襄盛舉，期望這個整修計劃能夠順利實現。」

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