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Reinventing the Rathskeller

U of M College of Design examines adaptive reuse of Landmark Center space

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (Dec. 2, 2016)—Fans of architecture, historic renovation, and design won't want to miss the new exhibit in Landmark Center's North Gallery. Interior Design students, from University of Minnesota College of Design, examined the potential reuse of Landmark Center's Rathskeller space as part of their Senior Design Studio course. The students worked in teams of two and delivered imaginative and creative proposals that view Landmark Center through exciting new perspectives. Their final projects will be on display in Landmark Center's North Gallery, Dec. 5 – Jan. 8, during normal building hours.

The instructor, Bill Hickey of Collaborative Design Group in Minneapolis, invited Landmark Center to act as the students' "client" for the semester, and tasked the students to base their vision for renovation around a hospitality space. This project cultivated sensitivity towards sustainability, preservation, and adaptive re-use in an historical building. The Rathskeller, a former boiler/service room, offers significant potential as an active social/hospitality space, but is presently a hidden jewel in Landmark Center. Reuse of this space offers opportunities to leverage other building assets - such as the 230-seat auditorium - to mutual benefit.

The students have created architectural renderings, including to-scale models, of how the Landmark Center Rathskeller could be converted to various functions. Focusing on hospitality/restaurant uses, teams proposed competitive and innovative design solutions. Students also designed corresponding elements to their proposals such as branding, vision, mission, and menu.

For more information on the exhibit visit www.landmarkcenter.org/museums.htm.

About Landmark Center

Landmark Center is a dynamic, historic cultural center and central gathering place in downtown Saint Paul. It is owned and sponsored by Ramsey County and managed by Minnesota Landmarks, the nonprofit programming and management agency for the building. Landmark Center is located at 75 West 5th Street, on Rice Park and is accessible to those with impaired mobility. Parking is available on

street and in nearby Lawson, Science Museum and RiverCentre Ramps. For more information, call 651.292.3063 or visit www.landmarkcenter.org.

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