

## ORIEL COLLEGE

# THE RHODES APPEAL

**A comprehensive programme to mark the Centenary of one of Oriel's most notable buildings and to celebrate one of the College's most generous benefactors.**



Extract from the Will of the Rt. Hon. Cecil John Rhodes:

*"I give the sum of £100,000 free of all duty whatsoever to my old College Oriel College in the University of Oxford"*



Cecil Rhodes was one of the most determined of Oriel undergraduates, and one of the most generous of its benefactors. Over a period of nine years he took spells of time away from his vast business and political concerns in South Africa to complete the Oxford degree which he valued so highly. On his death at the early age of 48 he bequeathed to Oriel the then exceptional sum of £100,000.

The Will gave explicit directions about the use of the bequest: for Fellowship endowments, to establish a fund for the general repair and maintenance of the College buildings, to maintain the dignity of High Table, and to construct a new building across the High Street end of Oriel.

This new building would complete the process of incorporating St Mary's Hall, begun in 1902, into Oriel as a third quad.

For this latter project Basil Champneys was appointed as architect and started working on the design in 1905. After several re-designs, work began in 1909 and the building was completed in 1911. Now the college proposes to mark the Centenary of the Rhodes Building by launching a substantial appeal in Rhodes' name.



The opening ceremony, 1911

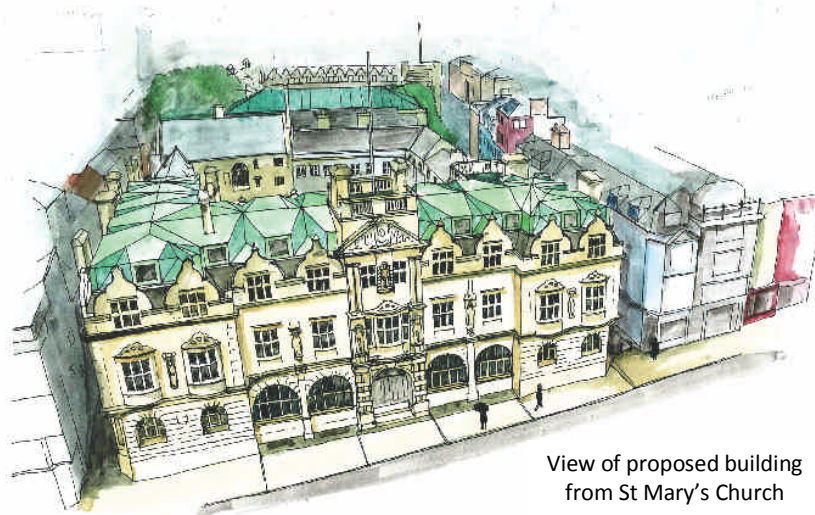
## Context of the Appeal

Oriel has embarked on a comprehensive fundraising campaign leading up to the 700th anniversary of its foundation, which falls in 2026. The purpose of the 2026 Campaign is to secure the financial future of Oriel and enable it to continue to reach world-class standards. The campaign sets out to provide the resources to enhance the quality of teaching and research, to attract the best students by offering substantial financial support for those who may need it, and to provide for the costs of restoring, maintaining and developing the buildings.



The Rhodes Appeal will make a substantial contribution to the realisation of these goals.

## The Rhodes Building



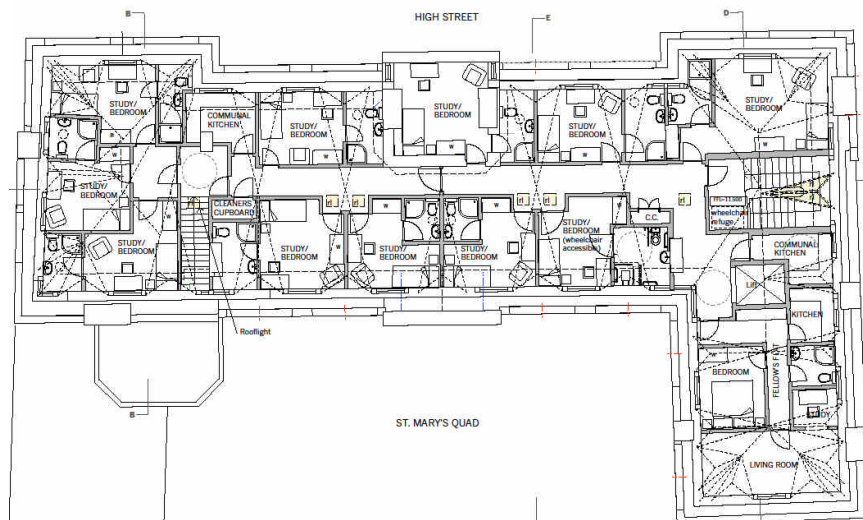
The Rhodes Building is critical to realising the College's vision of housing all students, vital to conference income, and an integral part of the accommodation needed to provide for fellows' teaching and for the administration of the College.

The Rhodes Appeal presents a great opportunity to move forward on all these fronts.

## Exterior works

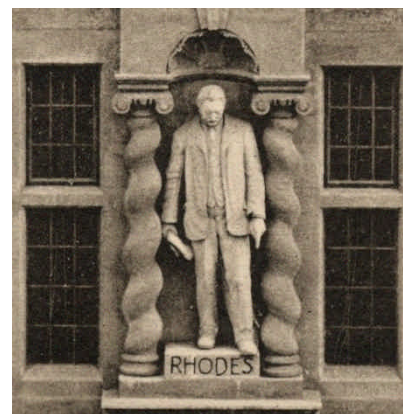
The largest tasks are the replacement of the roof and the creation of a new floor of student rooms at the top of the building.

These twelve rooms will be the first major addition of student accommodation on the College's main site since the original opening of the Rhodes Building, and will contribute greatly to the College's objective of being able to offer College accommodation to all undergraduates and all first year graduates.

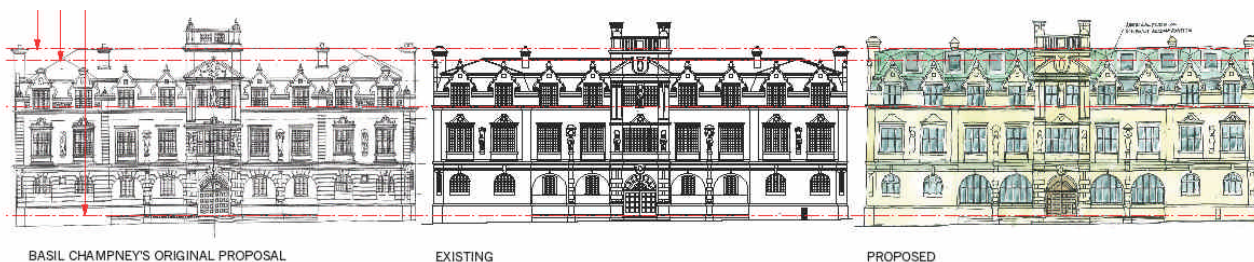


Plan of the proposed new 3rd floor of the Rhodes Building

In addition, much of the stonework needs attention; for example the 12 statues which include those of Rhodes, Edward VII and George V on the High Street and Adam de Brome, John Henry Newman, Thomas Arundel and Joseph Butler on the Quad side, are all in need of conservation. Entrances need to be adapted, not least as there is no access for those with disabilities at present.



There is also an opportunity to enlarge the windows onto the High Street, in keeping with the original designs which at the time were deemed too costly, thereby greatly enhancing the northern aspect of the building.

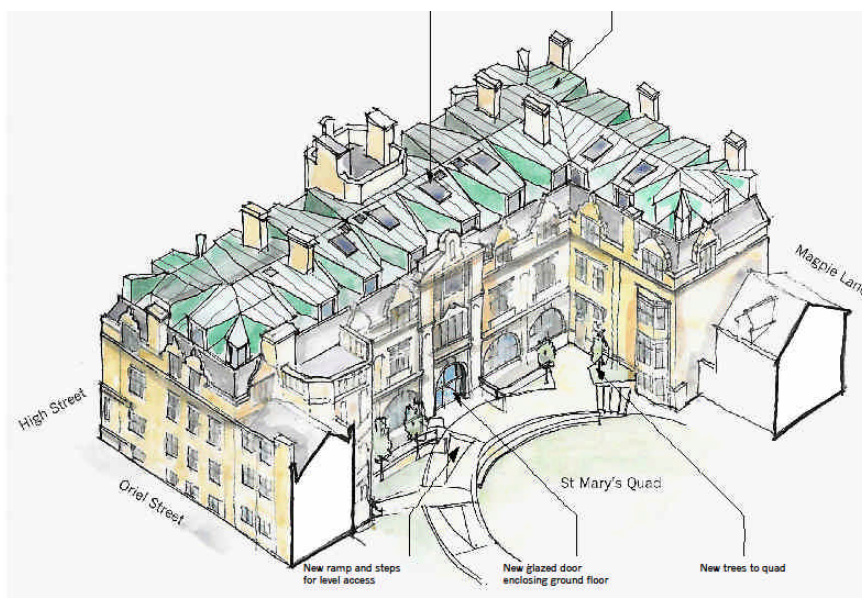


## Interior works

The interior has had a number of rather informal alterations: undergraduate rooms divided to make single study-bedrooms, coal cupboards converted to showers. A comprehensive refurbishment will provide appropriate and up-to-date accommodation for the twin demands of undergraduates and the increasing conference business, which is an essential source of income to the College. The Fellows' sets are similarly in need of renovation, though one recent refurbishment has shown that the rooms can be modernised without losing their character.

## Inclusive Access

Plans for the building will ensure for the first time that it is accessible to all. The entrances from St Mary's Quad will be re-modelled to provide level access to the building and a lift will be installed to provide access to all floors. Three rooms will be provided for use by disabled students .



## The Target

The total cost of the proposed works is £5 million at 2010 prices. The College has set aside £1 million from its planned refurbishment budgets and just over £1 million has been allocated to the project from the generous bequest from former Rhodes Scholar, Owen Walker (1938), leaving a balance of £3 million to be raised to allow the project to proceed.

Examples of specific items are:

Replace the roof	£500,000
Creation of new student rooms (12) each	£75,000
Refurbish Fellows'/Teaching rooms (3) each	£75,000
Refurbish Students' rooms (39) each	£50,000
Refurbish statues (12) each	£10,000

## Supporting the Rhodes Appeal

Gifts of any nature to the Appeal will be most welcome and we are always happy to discuss the most suitable ways of donating. In the USA arrangements already exist for tax-deductible donations to Oriel. Canadian donors can also enjoy tax benefits by donating through the University.

## Recognising your support

We would be delighted to discuss specific naming opportunities and plan to recognise all major supporters through a commemorative plaque in the building. Please contact us, as below, if you would like to discuss this.

### Contacts

The Provost, Sir Derek Morris, is always pleased to have a confidential discussion about a proposed benefaction.

A committee of Oriel Rhodes Scholars is also available to answer your questions.

In the USA: Greg Eckersley (1984 – Zambia): [gdeckersley@gmail.com](mailto:gdeckersley@gmail.com)  
Fred Manget (1973 – Georgia, USA): [vamangets@yahoo.com](mailto:vamangets@yahoo.com)  
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