Duke Chapel Restoration

**Project Scope:**
Restoration work is necessary on the following major components of Duke Chapel: lead-coated copper roof, tile & limestone vaulted ceiling, stained-glass windows, woodwork, woodcarving, pews, and slate floor.

**Program:**
Duke Chapel is the most recognized and used structure on campus, and has not undergone a major restoration since its completion in 1932. An inspection of the lead-coated copper roofing indicated its service life is nearing its end and replacement is warranted. A thorough, up-close inspection of the ceiling vaults has identified areas requiring stabilization measures as well as restoration of existing materials to ensure the facility’s long-term service. The firm of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates will design restoration measures for the limestone rib vaulting in the Chapel’s nave, transepts, and choir areas plus direct the reroofing of the entire Chapel. Highly-skilled craftsmen will undertake re-leading the stained-glass windows and wood renewal of the woodwork, wood carving, and refinishing of the pews.

**Architecture & Engineering:**
Wiss, Janney, Elstner will develop details and specifications to: 1) maintain alignment of the limestone ribs at each window vault, 2) repair existing cracks and spalls in the limestone ribs, 3) repoint existing cracked and open mortar joints in the limestone ribs, 4) replace in-kind the lead-coated copper roof and gutter/flashing system. Scaffolding, both inside and out, will surround the building’s exterior and fill the sanctuary’s interior space.

**Site/Location:**
Duke Chapel is located on the West Campus Quad flanked by the Divinity School and Flowers Building.

**Sustainability:**
The project will incorporate design recommendations of the US Green Building Council (USGBC) but will not seek a LEED target. Restoration of the existing structure is the basis of sustainability.

How to Restore Duke Chapel

Duke University Chapel Restoration Info and FAQ


Duke Today: An Inside Look at the Duke Chapel Restoration