

# MIZZOU DESIGN

## Architectural Studies alums return to leave mark across campus

**F**OR JEANINE BEQUETTE, THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI is a family legacy. Her father, aunts, uncles, and siblings are all Mizzou grads. Bequette met her husband while attending Mizzou in the 1970s, when she earned a degree from the university's Interior Design program now in the department of Architectural Studies.

Bequette, like many other Architectural Studies graduates, has since returned to Columbia to leave their own lasting mark on the Mizzou landscape. In 2006, MU picked Bequette, executive vice president of St. Louis interior design firm Directions in Design, to lead the remodeling of the University Club's private dining room and Tiger Bistro.

As Bequette puts it, "I Tiger-ed up the place," swapping out the mauve-and-blue color scheme for a more appropriate MU black-and-gold. Among a litany of other improvements — like new seating, carpeting, custom-built wine case and chandeliers — Bequette dug through old university archives and found stunning photographs of iconic Mizzou architecture taken across campus. Blown-up prints of those old photonegatives now hang in the University Club.

Architectural Studies alumni have a history of winning prestigious design contracts across campus, says department chair Ruth Tofle, a tribute to the quality of graduates who emerge from the program. "Receiving a University of Missouri design contract means competing successfully with the very best national firms," Tofle said.

Tofle cites alumni like Tracy Stearns, who graduated from the department in 1989 and has since served as a member of the Architectural Studies advisory board and even delivered the College of Human Environmental Sciences' commencement speech in 2012. Stearns, a founding principal of the nationally recognized 360 Architecture, was tapped to participate in Memorial Stadium's multi-million-dollar facelift, designing the stadium's luxury suites and Tiger Lounge.

MU has selected Linda Loewenstein, who earned her degree from the Architectural Studies department in 1982, to direct several redesign projects in recent years. Loewenstein, a founding principal with the



University Club dining room designed by alum Jeanine Bequette (BS EDn '78).

PHOTO BY AMY SANDERS

Lawrence Group, a St. Louis-based design firm, has led the effort to redesign University Hospital's exterior entrance, main lobby and concourse, as well as design work for the hospital's Missouri Psychiatric Center. This past year, MU also selected Loewenstein as part of the design team on the Jones, Lathrop, Laws and Dobbs Pavilion replacement project. While not an MU project, Loewenstein also provided interior architectural planning and design for the Broadway Doubletree Hilton Hotel in downtown Columbia, which is slated for completion this spring.

"Personally, I am extremely proud of the education I received at Mizzou," Loewenstein said. "I'm always thrilled to be involved in any project in Columbia when given the chance."

Likewise, Wendy Gray's signature touch can be seen throughout the \$68 million MU Student Center renovations, which began in 2005 and were completed in 2010. MU chose Gray, owner of the St. Louis-based Gray Design Group, to spearhead design work throughout the new student center. Among other contributions, her work was integral in reviving the famous Shack restaurant, a long-time popular Columbia hangout that closed in 1984. Inside the new student center — Gray salvaged and rehabbed many of the old wooden booths and tabletops covered by nostalgic carvings by former clientele. Among other elements, Gray oversaw the design for Mort's Grill, named for Mort Walker, class of



Mort's Grill restaurant included inside the MU Student Center designed by alum Wendy Gray (BS EDn '78)

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'46 and creator of the "Beetle Bailey" comic strip. At the entrance of the restaurant is a specially commissioned statue of Beetle, created by Walker and his son.

"These are great designers and loyal alumni who thoroughly understand our Mizzou culture," Tofle said. "We are proud to celebrate our accomplished alumni and their beautiful showcase work."