



C.V. Starr East Asian Library Reading Room Renovation

Columbia University Facilities and Operations is performing a renovation of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library on the 300 level of Kent Hall to restore the historic decorative plaster ceiling. The project will also include other improvements such as new group study rooms, new accessible lobby entrance doors, a new circulation desk, new and refurbished dimmable lighting, carpet replacement in the reading room, new furniture, and a restoration of the historic stained-glass window. This will be the first renovation of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library since 2009.

Construction Activities for the Weeks of July 20, 2026 and July 27, 2026

Although contractors carefully stage construction activities to minimize disruption, the nature of construction work is such that some disruptions will occur. The community should expect the following in the coming weeks:

What is Happening

- Fire sprinkler work on the 300 level. Intermittent drilling noise is expected from the attachment of sprinkler pipes
- Masonry repairs at the 300-level ceiling vault. Intermittent drilling noise is expected at masonry coring locations
- Abatement on the 300 and 400 levels
- Electrical work including conduit layout and trenching
- Site maintenance including upkeep of site protection and regular cleaning
- Verification of field conditions

What to Expect

- Regular work hours are 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, with after-hours work performed as needed.
 - **Abatement work on the 300 level will take place for approximately 3 weeks from 5:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., Monday through Friday.**
 - **Abatement work on the 400 level will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., Monday through Friday. This work is anticipated to take place between Thursday, July 23 to Monday, July 27.**
- **A building-wide electrical shutdown at Kent Hall is scheduled for Saturday, July 18 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** During the shutdown, electrical service to the building will be unavailable and access to the building will be restricted for the duration of the work.
- The project's construction work will create disruptions typically associated with construction projects, including some intermittent noise and vibrations. Dust will be confined to the project space.
- Floor protection will be installed in common spaces along the path of travel for deliveries and personnel. Public spaces will be cleaned daily.
- A construction barrier at the Starr Library entrance will be in place in the building lobby of Kent Hall for the duration of the project.
- Intermittent noise (e.g. drilling, cutting, and moving of equipment) will occur during regular work hours.

Please note this work is subject to change based on field conditions and other external factors.

For More Information

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please call the Columbia University Facilities Services Center at (212) 854-2222 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or e-mail projx@columbia.edu (emails responded to during normal business hours). We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience while we perform this work.