Reimagining Harvard’s Home for World Religions
“Harvard Divinity School’s work has never been more vital to our understanding of a complex world, to the well-being of our planet, and to the purpose of Harvard University. As we celebrate its bicentennial, it is clear that, now more than ever, we need HDS and the extraordinary community of scholars and leaders that it creates.”

Drew Gilpin Faust
President of Harvard University
Lincoln Professor of History
HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL is a place where people of all faiths—and none at all—come together to study religion critically, in an atmosphere of authenticity and respect. Graduates go on to advance understanding of the world’s major religious traditions and to use religious resources in their efforts to build stronger communities, work for social justice, and help people everywhere lead richer, more meaningful lives.

Andover Hall, the School’s main teaching and research space, is the cornerstone of this effort. Now the time has come to reimagine this critical teaching and learning facility, built more than a century ago, to meet the needs of twenty-first century students, scholars, and leaders. For HDS to continue to bring people together across religious and cultural divides, it must have at the heart of its campus a cutting-edge, multireligious learning space. And, confronted by the imperative of environmental sustainability, the effort to renew Andover must also set a new standard for green building at Harvard and beyond.
Scholars and leaders making a world of difference

The promise of the twenty-first century study of religion is to bring people together across cultural divides to work more effectively on the unprecedented challenges facing humanity. Because we live in an increasingly pluralistic world, HDS engages those who both study and practice all major traditions. The most religiously diverse divinity school in the United States, HDS’s student body includes more than 30 different faiths and denominations. The School is a model for the kind of informed pluralism that is critical for the United States and the wider world in the decades to come.

HDS is the only divinity school with three of the country’s top experts in each of the world’s major religious traditions—and in many smaller religions as well. The School’s doctoral program is one of the main sources of faculty for religious studies departments at top institutions throughout the country. And because religion is deeply intertwined with virtually every area of knowledge, its study at HDS is inherently interdisciplinary. The School’s master of theological studies program, for instance, includes 18 different areas of focus, including politics and ethics, social science, and literature and culture, to name just a few.

At the same time, the preparation of religious leaders is also central to this endeavor—as it has been at HDS for 200 years, and at Harvard for nearly four centuries. The most direct and effective way to encourage interfaith understanding and cooperation—and to counter extremism—is to produce a new generation of leaders not only educated, but also formed together with their counterparts in Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, and with humanists as well.
Finally, HDS is a training ground for ethical, religiously literate leaders in all fields who work for a better world. Whether by improving the health of inner-city children in Boston; securing the freedom of those tossed in prison without a trial in Burundi; or working at the highest levels of government to eliminate extreme poverty, promote human rights, and mitigate conflict, the School’s alumni bring the study of religion to bear on real problems in diverse communities.

In short, Harvard Divinity School strives in all it does to make a world of difference.

To accommodate HDS’s global mission, the School’s teaching, learning, and meeting spaces must evolve to meet current and future demands. After months of study, a coalition of leading architects, sustainability consultants, and senior Harvard administrators have developed an ambitious plan to renovate Andover Hall into both a modern center for the School and a “net-zero energy” facility.
The Vision

By renewing the heart of the School’s campus, HDS seeks to create a model learning and research environment that transforms the way scholars and students engage the world and each other. The project’s highlights include:

- **The creation of a true campus center** that brings the School’s core academic resources together with student services and social space;
- **A new 200-seat auditorium** for conferences and public conversations on religion with global leaders;
- **Modernized classrooms** suited to new ways of teaching and learning, with flexible spaces and a new multimedia infrastructure;
- **A multifaith chapel** that welcomes students of all religions, and where all members of HDS community may gather to worship, perform, and share experiences;
- **Full accessibility** throughout the building for people of all physical abilities.

### Energy Use and Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY15 Energy Use Intensity (kbtu/sf/yr)</th>
<th>Post-Renovation Energy Consumption</th>
<th>Post-Renovation Solar Production</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEFORE RENOVATION</strong></td>
<td><strong>AFTER RENOVATION</strong></td>
<td><strong>NEW BURIED UTILITY LINES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tbody>
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Source Energy Use Intensity (kbtu/sf/yr)

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**Section diagram indicating proposed improvements**

- Repaired Existing Slate Roof
- Air Barrier Installed Above Wood Ceiling
- New Wood Framed Interior Storm Windows
- Continuous Interior Air Barrier
- New Wood Framed Interior Storm Windows
- Variable Speed Fan Coil Units (At Window)
- New Interior Partitions with Airlock Doors
- Radiant Slab Heating and Cooling in Basement
- New Below-Slab Insulation and Vapor Barrier
- New Single Glazed Protective Glass, Installed Outside Existing Restored Leaded Glass
Beyond Sustainability: The Promise of Net-Zero

Now there is also the prospect of transforming the heart of the HDS campus into a net-zero energy consumer: a building where the energy created from onsite renewable sources each year is equal to the amount of energy consumed. This option has the potential to address, for the first time, issues faced by historic structures throughout Harvard University and beyond. These include:

- **Solutions to design constraints.** Net-zero projects are typically new construction. Lessons learned from Andover’s renewal will provide a model for the retrofit of the roughly 700 existing buildings on Harvard’s campus—and for organizations and communities looking to go “carbon free” in the years ahead;

- **Overcoming a challenging climate.** Andover’s renewal will provide a model for efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning in the often extreme New England weather;

- **Managing intensive energy use.** The net-zero project will include administrative, classroom, conference, and social spaces to demonstrate efficient lighting and heating in areas that have a higher than usual energy density;

- **Green building in an urban environment.** Almost all existing net-zero buildings are located in suburban or more rural areas where land for solar panels or wind turbines is more plentiful. This project will advance urban design for net-zero energy.

As HDS looks to its third century, the renewal of Andover Hall will ensure that the building lives up to its potential as the center of the School’s effort to empower scholars and leaders for a religiously complex world.
“What was sufficient one hundred years ago is insufficient now. Andover Hall in its present state does not correspond to the interconnected, technology-enhanced, multireligious world our students inhabit or facilitate the research and collaboration that make our faculty among the best in the world. Like all of Harvard, we have to adapt our spaces and technology to meet the needs of the next Emerson, the next Channing that walks our halls and inhabits their roles at Harvard and indeed the world.”

David N. Hempton  
Dean of the Faculty of Divinity  
Alonzo L. McDonald Family Professor of Evangelical Theological Studies  
John Lord O’Brien Professor of Divinity