

YALE CLUB OF NEW YORK CITY

50 Vanderbilt Avenue, Manhattan
Tax Map Block 1279, Lot 28

Built: 1913-15

Architect: James Gamble Rogers

Style: Renaissance Revival

Actions: Item Proposed for the Commission's Calendar on May 10, 2016

The Yale Club of New York is a handsome Renaissance Revival-style skyscraper at the northwest corner of Vanderbilt Avenue and East 44th Street. An elegant and understated neo-classical style work, this century-old clubhouse was designed to serve the Yale community and to harmonize with the Beaux-Arts style train station and other Terminal City buildings that it adjoins.

The Club is located in "Terminal City," an East Midtown development on property above the railroad tracks owned by New York Central Railroad dating back to the construction of Grand Central Terminal. The club was built on property leased from the New York Central Railroad, and it stands above the railroad tracks. It was an ideal location, opposite the then recently-completed Grand Central Terminal, which serves New Haven, where the Yale campus is located, and at the east end of "clubhouse row."

The club's architect was James Gamble Rogers, who graduated from Yale College in 1889 and attended the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris during the 1890s. Rogers, who settled in New York City in 1905, designed many important institutional structures in the United States, including a large group of buildings for his alma mater, as well as for Northwestern, Columbia, and New York Universities.

To make certain that his design would blend into the developing neighborhood he consulted regularly with the Terminal's architect Warren & Wetmore. A tripartite tower, the base is faced with Indiana limestone, the middle floors tan face brick, and the uppermost floors, where the main dining room is located, glazed terra cotta. For the base, which contains the club's main lounge, library and grill room, Rogers drew inspiration from one Italian Renaissance building, the Palazzo Massimo all Colonne in Rome, designed by architect Baldassare Peruzzi. Both structures incorporate Tuscan pilasters laid over shallow rusticated stonework, as well as an unusual combination of windows.



