

JUNE 2019

by: Allison Klingler

CONFERENCE CENTER

for: Drexelbrook



Top: "Franklin Room, Before" Photo by Audrey Gusick.
Bottom: "Franklin Board Room, After"
Right: "Franklin Conference Center, After" Photos by Drexelbrook Special Event Center



Dever Architects Renovates Historic Delco Landmark:

On May 30th, the Drexelbrook Special Event Center celebrated the grand opening of its new hotel and redesigned conference center.

Originally built in the 1950s as an exclusive club, Drexelbrook has long been a staple in Pennsylvania's Delaware County. The original building has seen skating rinks and pool clubs; it even hosted American Bandstand in the 1960s and suffered a devastating fire in the 1970s. New chapters were continuously written as the club became an event venue, hosting weddings, proms, and parties of all kinds; events that became easier to host with the addition of the 15,000-square foot Grand Ballroom in 2000. With many special events moving from the original building to the new ballroom, spaces in the original began to feel a bit dated.

The owners of Drexelbrook knew the solution was not just to spruce up the spaces, but to completely transform them – to make spaces that were too big into smaller conference rooms and to make spaces that were too small into larger reception rooms. And they turned to Dever Architects for help.

Throughout the building, Dever worked to take down walls, change windows to doors, create better flow, update railings and fixtures, and, most importantly, make sure everything was brought up to today's codes.

On the main conference level, the Franklin Room needed a good deal of work. Originally a large, open ballroom, the soon to be Conference Center needed a board room, three breakout rooms, and a pre-function space that would allow for refreshments. Special care had to be taken in wall and door placement as per code requirements. Dever Architects worked hard to ensure that access to all the spaces was safe and convenient and they replaced meandering paths through the building with straight corridors.

The redesigned Drexelbrook Special Event Center is brighter and cleaner looking. The updated spaces have better flow that will suit the needs of both brides and businesses and will keep everyone in between safe.



Left: "The Frascati Room, Before" Photo by Audrey Gusick

Right: "The Belmont Room, After" Photo by Drexelbrook

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