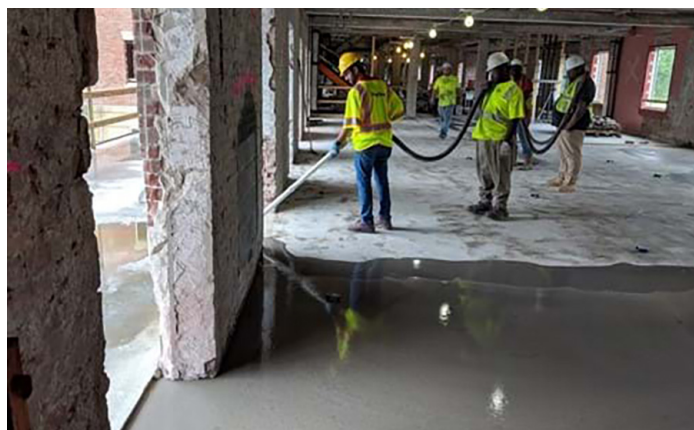




## TEC® Helps the University of Alabama Preserve Architectural History

The University of Alabama has been transforming Tuscaloosa's historic Bryce Hospital into a destination for academic and cultural pursuits. University Hall is one of the buildings in the Bryce complex that benefited from the university's investment in restoring the hospital campus. The renovated University Hall building houses multiple university programs' offices. Renovation of the Bryce buildings has been a win for both the state and the university, as it preserved architectural history and provides much needed academic space.

The Bryce Women's Admission Center building was purchased by the university in 2010 and subsequently renamed University Hall. The university approved nearly \$26 million to renovate University Hall, which includes restoring the building's three stories and its domed tower. Once university engineers inspected the 80 year old building, they realized that the interior would need to be stripped back to the outer brick walls to create the large room sizes needed for university programs' use.



The University of Alabama's 80 year old University Hall building was primed with TEC® MultiPurpose Primer during a nearly \$26 million renovation.



It took several years of planning and demolition work to get University Hall ready for its first updates in decades.

To begin the project, Architect James Hewitt AIA, CSI, CDT, of Williams Blackstock Architects needed to make sure the floors were prepared properly to support all the other work that would take place in the gutted structure. Hewitt knew there would be many floor prep challenges, given the size of the building and the varying conditions of the stripped back floors.

Generally with buildings as old as University Hall, it is important to take time to finish structural repairs, interior framing, ceiling work and all door and window replacements before starting the flooring preparation. Not surprisingly, the university construction schedule was extremely tight, so many trades were working simultaneously on this project. To make sure floor preparation went smoothly, the architects called upon a trusted partner, Applied Floors Inc., AFI, to get the job done.

Bill Robinson, Business Development Manager for AFI, assessed the job site to determine the floor leveling needs. With many long hallways and now wide-open areas inside, the University Hall floors presented with inconsistencies and dips up to 2” in some spots. In addition, the very old concrete substrate required extra attention.

Whenever concrete is as old as the substrate in University Hall, it is important to perform stability testing and water drop testing to determine the “thirst” level of the concrete. As with all concrete surfaces, old and new, the concrete must be prepped for the materials that will be applied over the substrate. Concrete preparation includes careful cleaning to remove any dirt, loose debris or surface contaminants. After the cleaning and testing is successfully completed, the surface is ready for priming. University Hall was primed with TEC® Multi-Purpose Primer.



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