

LET'S RISE

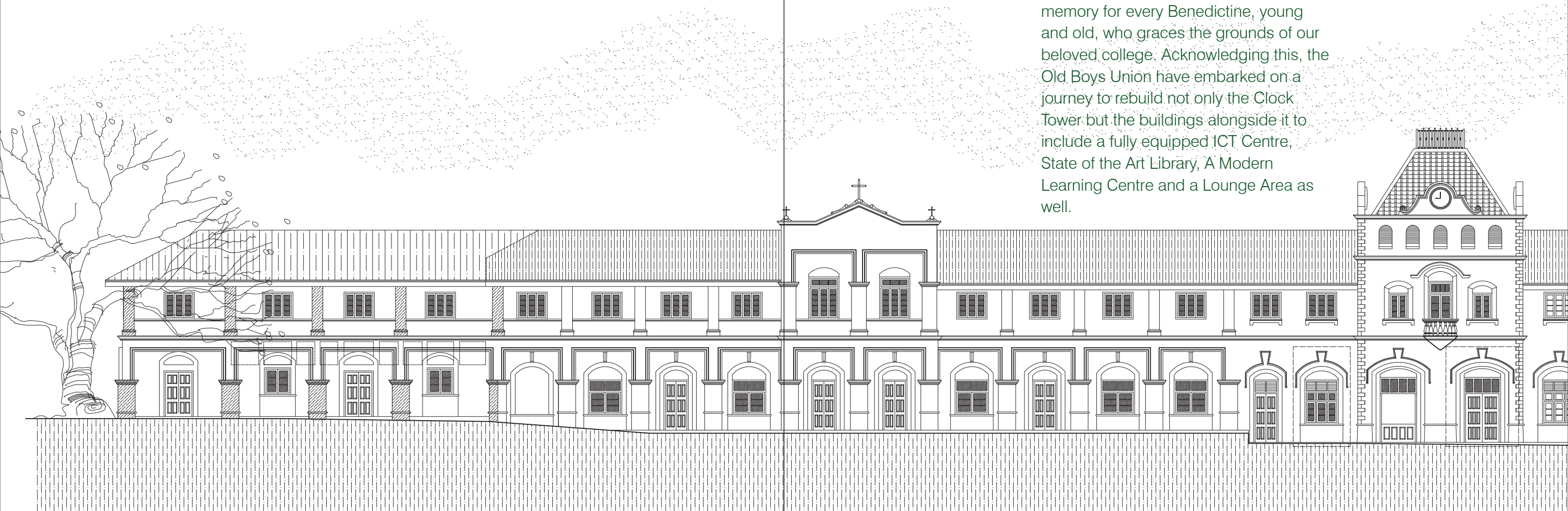


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HISTORY

Steeped in over 120 years of history, the Clock Tower holds within its pillars a memory for every Benedictine, young and old, who graces the grounds of our beloved college. Acknowledging this, the Old Boys Union have embarked on a journey to rebuild not only the Clock Tower but the buildings alongside it to include a fully equipped ICT Centre, State of the Art Library, A Modern Learning Centre and a Lounge Area as well.





STORY OF ST. BENEDICT'S COLLEGE

At the head of our vast system of schools, St. Benedict's Institute is the leading Catholic College in the Archdiocese. Founded in 1865, St. Benedict's has always maintained its reputation for the sound education that it imparts to its pupils. Rt. Rev. Christopher Ernest Bonjean, Archbishop of Colombo in his Pastoral Letter of 6th January 1892 even stated that the good work done by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, during their long years of service in Colombo, was above all praise.

St. Benedict's College is presently on a mission to regain its rightful position within the educational sphere of Sri Lanka. During its 156 years of existence, the alumni of St. Benedict's College have been the most eminent personalities in both the religious and secular fields. This tradition must be continued by the present and future generations of Benedictines.

Though the School had its roots in what is known today as the Brothers Quarters, the present students have some of most

modern and spacious facilities in which to pursue their studies and extra and co-curricular activities. Among its infrastructure, the magnificent Clock Tower Building, built at the turn of the 20th century, still stands out. This iconic building is the legacy of Rev. Bro. Cassian of Jesus (Joseph Perumal), Sub Director, who was the Architect and the Builder of this monumental structure. Rev. Bro. Cassian served St. Benedict's throughout his entire teaching and religious career, spanning 42 years (1870 – 1912).

The Old Clock Tower Renovation Project aims to restore the elegance and the beauty of this building, whilst equipping it with modern state of the art facilities to enable the students of St. Benedict's College to reach for excellence in all areas of education.

The renovated Clock Tower Building will be dedicated to Rev. Bro. Cassian of Jesus to perpetuate his name for posterity.

STORY OF THE CLOCK

"The clock of this tower is presented by A.N. de Silva Esq, in loving memory of his father, Philip de Silva, former Registrar and President of St. Lucia's Cathedral, and President and Mupu of St. Anthony's Church, Koch-chikade in 1905." Thus reads an inscription at the foot of the clock tower near the staircase in the old building.

There lies a very interesting story behind this presentation. What made Mr. A. N. de Silva think of this expensive gift to the College? Expensive it was, since the clock was imported all the way from Paris, a fact little known to Benedictines. According to Rev. Bro. Luke, it was a happy accident coupled with clever handling by a former Sub-Director, Bro. Cassian. Mr. A. N. de Silva, it appears had come to St. Lucia's Cathedral, accompanied by his wife and a party of kinsmen to offer

mass, as it was an important wedding anniversary. Unfortunately, however, the Cathedral Choir was nowhere to be seen. It was under these circumstances that the good Brothers of St. Benedict's filled the void, ably led by Bro. Remegius.

Extremely pleased with their kind gesture, Mr. A. N. de Silva personally expressed his grateful thanks to the Brothers and inquired of Sub-Director Cassian as to how he could repay their kindness. The resourceful Bro. Cassian took time by the forelock. He pointed to the Clock Tower sans clock. It wasn't too extravagant a request for the great Mupu. Thereafter came the clock which continued to tick for nearly a century, since its installation, but sadly is now beyond repair.

Let's rise to reignite...

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

On behalf of the Benedictine family, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Building Committee, headed by Mr. Rohan De Silva, the Chairman, and the team for their joint strength and commitment in initiating the restoration of such an original and unique building that is our Clock Tower.

This building has served its purpose beautifully over the past 120 years. It has come to a stage where it needs to be restored and preserved, catering to the requirement and needs of the college at this time, in order to serve the students better.

The Lasallian educational service for children is in high demand and I commend the initiative of the college management and the Building Committee to develop the existing resources and infrastructure facilities, so as to provide young Benedictines with the latest technology, while creating a healthy learning environment keeping step with

the Strategic Plan of the College.

During my tenure as the Director of St. Benedict's College, the stakeholders and myself identified this extensive project as a means through which to provide better facilities for the next generations of students. I encourage everyone to support this project in order to facilitate better opportunities for our children.

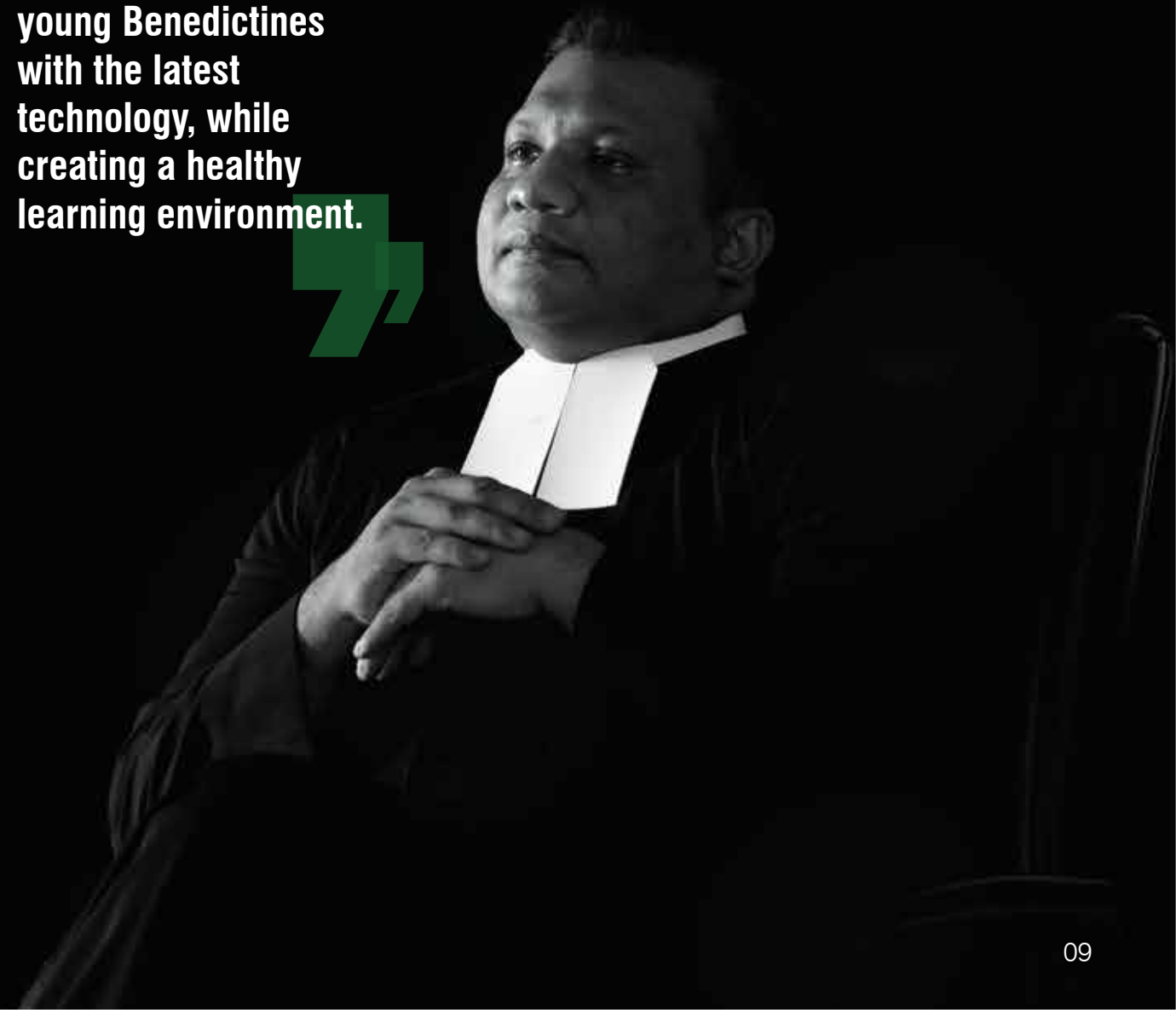
We remember with gratitude all those who have contributed to this building throughout the years. I look forward to seeing its progress, with enthusiasm, hope and confidence that it will serve the many future generations of young Benedictines in the years to come.

I have complete confidence in our Building Committee, under the leadership of the Project Chairman, and their continuous contributions and efforts to further develop our esteemed college.

May God Bless our efforts!

Rev. Bro. Dr. Pubudu Rajapaksha FSC
Director/Principal

I commend the initiative... to providing young Benedictines with the latest technology, while creating a healthy learning environment.





PRESERVING OUR PAST

On behalf of the Old Boys' Union - Clock Tower Building Restoration Committee, I am very pleased to announce the commencement of the restoration project of the iconic Clock Tower Building at St. Benedict's College, Colombo 13, Sri Lanka.

The Clock Tower Building was the first two story building of St. Benedict's College built at the turn of the 20th Century which housed a spacious Boarding and School Hall. Over the past century the building has been an integral part of our history and a tangible link to our past. It tells a story and has kept College memories alive for many generations of Benedictines.

However, it has now fallen into a state of derelict which prompted the Old Boys Union to undertake this worthy project of restoration, with the blessings of the Bro. Director of the College. The planned restoration will involve the Clock Tower and the building alongside it to include an ICT Centre, Library, Learning Centre, Lounge and Waiting Area adjoining the Auditorium. We hope to bring the building back to the status that it deserves, as the pride of St. Benedict's College for future generations of Benedictines.

The unique design of the building was the creation of Bro. Cassian of Jesus (Joseph Perumal), an Old Boy of St Benedict's College, who served his Alma Mater for over forty-two years in various capacities. It is of paramount importance to us to maintain the original aesthetic of the building as an educational tool reflecting the history, architecture, and engineering of the time period during which the building was originally constructed.

I sincerely invite all Old Boys and donors to contribute to this project to preserve our past and help lift St Benedict's College to greater heights.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Clock Tower Building Restoration Committee for their tireless efforts to make this project a reality.

Yours sincerely,
Rohan De Silva
Project Chairman

A STATE OF THE ART ICT CENTRE

The expansion of the digital sphere has ensured the need for students to improve their technological prowess over the years. With the computers heavily outdated, the current ICT Centre is in dire need of a makeover.

The proposed, new ICT Centre is designed to facilitate up to 45 students at a time and with the installation of state-of-the-art laptops and a few PCs, students from each respective class will be able to learn side-by-side without having to share resources. A steady knowledge of and ability to use a variety of software applications is necessary, to an extent, prior to entering the workforce.

For students eager to pursue a career connected to technology, the options of exploring certain programmes and extensive software courses will be made available. All use of computers will be monitored by qualified ICT Instructors.



Embracing Digitisation

Investing in Knowledge



A FULLY FLEDGED DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL LIBRARY

The Benedictine Library is steeped in historical significance. However, it has come to our attention that the stock of books available to our budding Benedictines needs to be updated. Students require an education that extends beyond the boundaries of a textbook education. As such, tapping into the extensive resources and generous hearts of our Old Boys, we hope to equip the library with a variety of books ranging across the basic O/L and A/L subjects and beyond. An all-round education would include media, environment, sociology, communication, cultural values and many other subjects.

It is our responsibility to ensure that these young boys have the necessary guidance on their journey towards manhood. Learning encompasses more than what is found in one's textbooks. With the assistance of a qualified librarian, we hope to ensure that students receive an above average education.

By expanding beyond the limitations of traditional learning we hope to prepare Benedictines for the challenges of adulthood as they progress with their education.



A MODERN LEARNING CENTRE

The development of a Learning Center in close proximity to the Library has been initiated to inspire independent learning. With tables and chairs arranged to facilitate group learning and discussion, the Learning Center will further facilitate an all-round education for students. By preparing them for the interactions associated with a working environment and the importance of brainstorming and innovation, we hope to solidify the education of well-rounded young men.



Investing in Knowledge

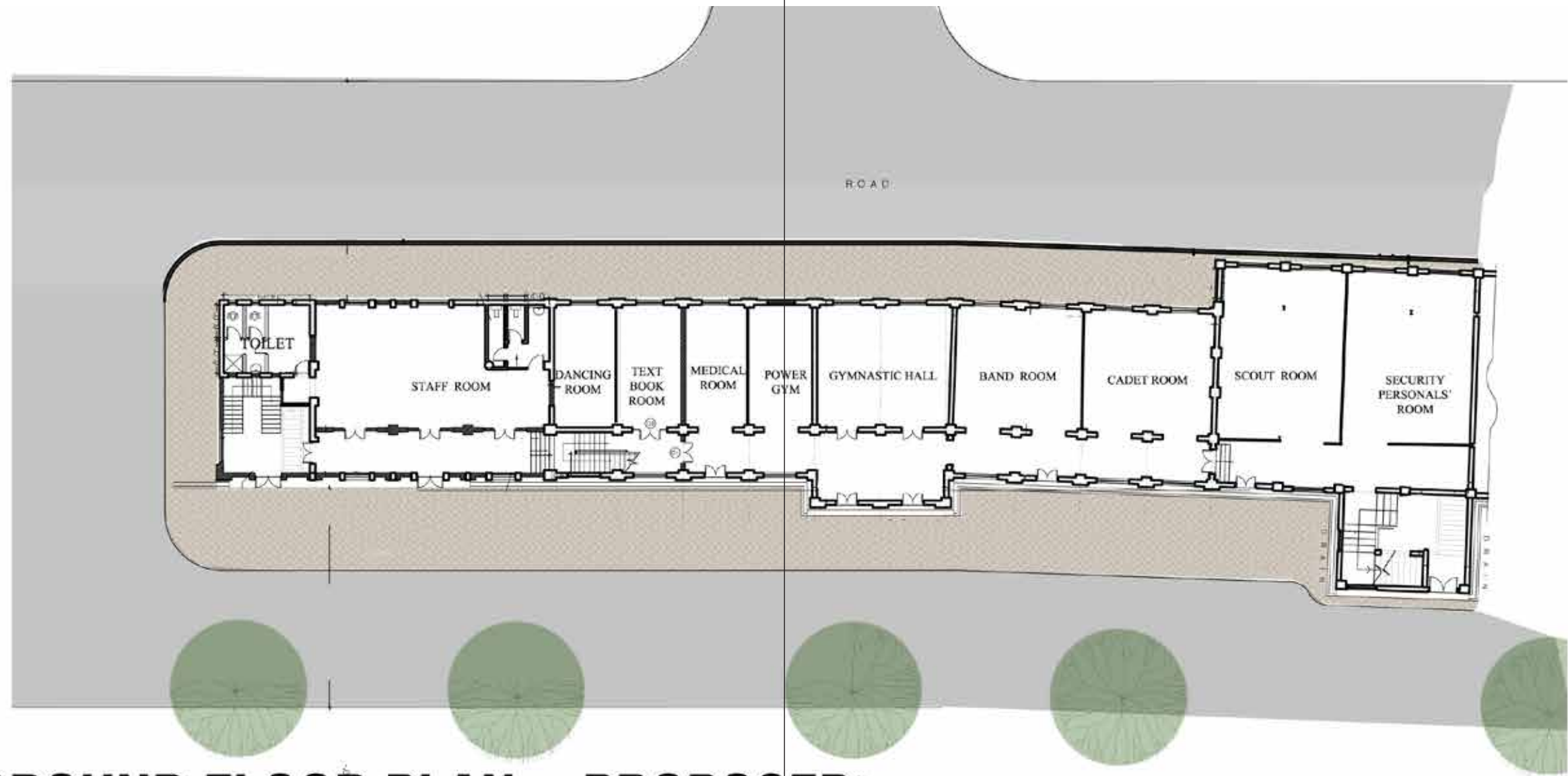


A beautiful Lounge Area

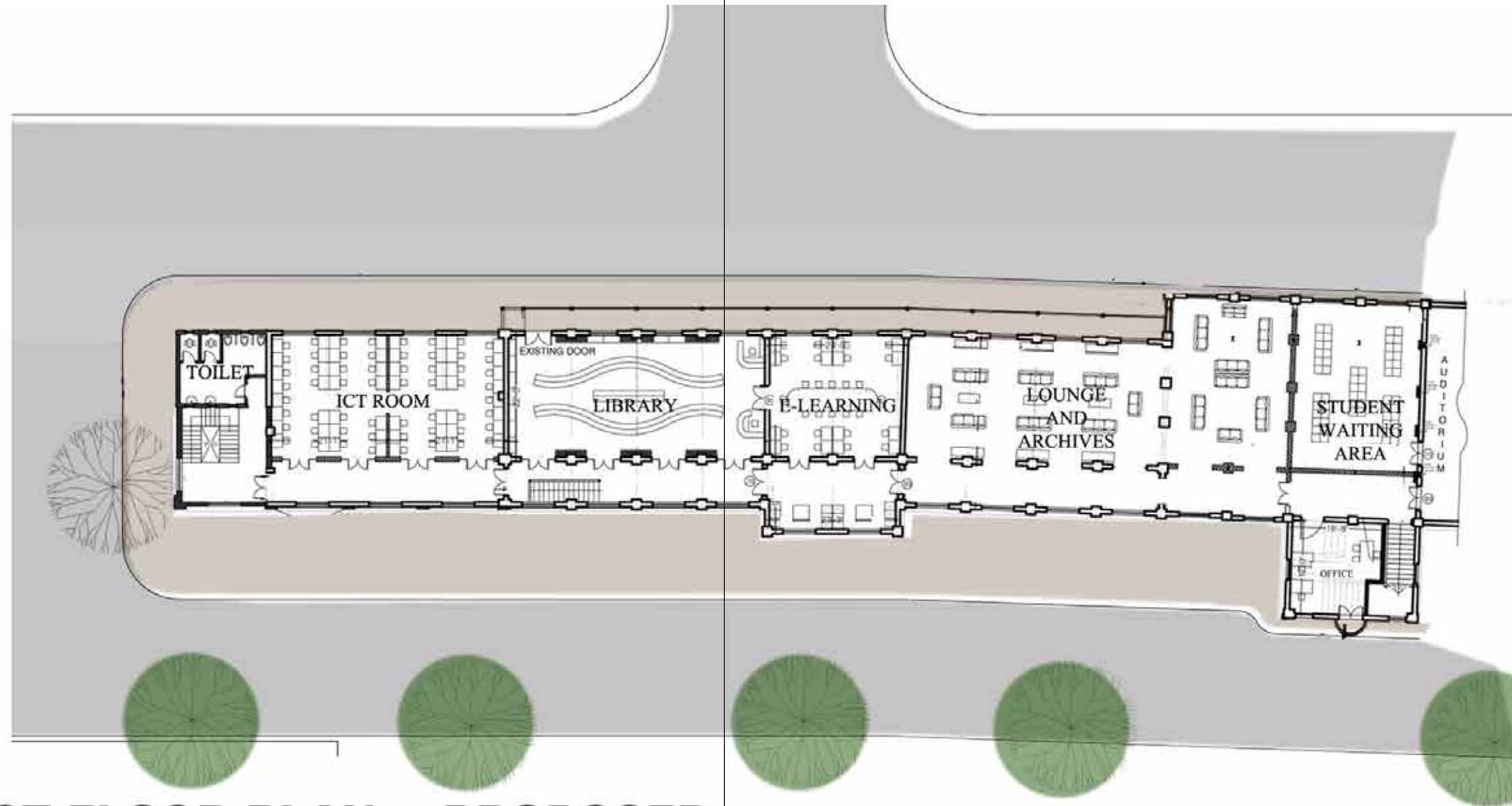
A separate area has been designed to facilitate visitors to the school. This lounge area is the ideal place for visitors to sit back and catch their breath, as they get a taste of the Benedictine Spirit. With access to the archives around the room as well as the display cases of awards received by the school, the Benedictine spirit takes a front seat in this room.

Be it new students and their parents/guardians being given a tour of the school prior to enrolment, past pupils visiting the school or any other visitors, this room aims at emanating the passion and pride at being a part of the Benedictine Legacy. Encouraging the visitation of mentors and specialists in their relevant subjects, to the school with the purpose of further educating young students, this would be the ideal area to soak in the atmosphere of the prestigious college.





GROUND FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED



FIRST FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED

CLOCK TOWER PROJECT COMMITTEE



From left: Samal Dissanaïke, Roshan Samararatunge (Treasurer), Rev. Bro. Pravin Vaz (Sub Director of Primary School), Priyal Perera (Secretary), Rev. Bro. Piumal Seneviratne (Head of Middle School), Lalith Madappuli, Rohan de Silva (Chairman), Rev. Bro. Dr. Pubudu Rajapaksha (Director), Felix Dias, Ruan Samarasinghe
Absent: Alann Lopez

Bonds of Brotherhood

Recognizing the importance of having a quiet, safe space for interaction and cultivating the bonds of brotherhood, the introduction of a specialized room for the exclusive use of the Cub-Scouts and Cadets is on the cards. This space will facilitate the learning of important life skills such as team-building, developing self-confidence and outdoor dexterity.



Powering Through

Physical activity is important for children from an early age as it strengthens coordination, boosts metabolism and overall health and wellness. With the introduction of the Power Gym and its host of dynamic equipment, young Benedictines can continuously improve their physical health, keeping them in top shape regardless of their involvement in school sports teams.

In Touch with Traditions

Enabling young Benedictines to explore their talents and develop their kinaesthetic memory through the power of dance is important. Traditional dance is inherent to the culture of Sri Lanka and ensuring that the youth are afforded a space where they are encouraged to remain in touch with their roots while exploring the dynamic movements of dance, is a necessity.





The Road to Recovery

Boys will be boys... The new Sports Injury Treatment Centre is fully equipped to deal with the multitude of predicaments that our aspiring sports stars might get themselves into. From cuts to bruises to sprains to pulled muscles to broken bones, this state-of-the-art treatment centre and the accompanying qualified physio-specialist will be ready to get our athletes back to peak performance as soon as possible.

Learning Essentials

From books to pens to pencils to any item of stationery that might be required, the bookshop is the one-stop shop for students of all ages. To satisfy the needs of many, this bookshop will be regularly stocked with all necessarily learning utensils, ensuring that students have access to what they need as they aim to expand their knowledge.

Investment breakdown for the project

1.	Furniture	
	a. Lounge area	3,500,000
	b. Library and reading rooms	5,250,000
	c. Other areas	1,750,000
2.	Computers and network system	9,500,000
3.	Airconditioning and Ventilation system	4,500,000
4.	Repair the existing Clock 3 sides	1,750,000
5.	Best quality carpet flooring	1,500,000
6.	Light Fittings, Fixtures Grid Lighting (Ceiling System)	6,500,000
7.	Window blinds	2,000,000
Total interior work		36,250,000
Total civil work		79,000,000
Technical services & administration		4,250,000
GRAND TOTAL LKR		119,500,000

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