

# INTRODUCTION

**A**fter Thomas Jefferson completed his second term as President of the United States in 1809, his principal effort, until his death in 1826, was the creation and construction of what became The University of Virginia. The new University was designed by Jefferson with the consultation of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the first professionally trained architect in America, who was also Jefferson's Surveyor of Public Buildings (the position later developed into the Architect of the Capitol). The construction of the buildings designed by Jefferson began with Pavilion VII in 1817 and ended with the completion of the Rotunda in 1828.

Of all the original Jefferson buildings constructed at the University, Pavilion IX and the Rotunda are the ones where Jefferson had the greatest collaboration with Latrobe. The Pavilion IX Historic Structure Report, as well as others recently completed by John G. Waite Associates, Architects for the Rotunda and Latrobe's Baltimore Cathedral, further illustrates the close working relationship between Jefferson and Latrobe and the high degree of professional respect that each had for the other. Not only were architectural design issues frequently discussed, but the two shared a deep interest in building technology and construction methods. This collaboration resulted in a pavilion whose front elevation is unique among the pavilions: starkly simple, balancing the geometry of the large, central arched recess and the flanking windows. Its design has long been a favorite among architects.

This report is the latest in the series of historic structure reports for the buildings of Thomas Jefferson's Academical Village, which began with the preparation of the first report dealing with Pavilion I in 1991. The Pavilion IX report, like the previous studies, strongly advocates the adoption of a sound curatorial approach to the maintenance, renewal and restoration of the Jefferson buildings at the University. Just as an art conservator would not intervene in the life of a significant artifact before obtaining a thorough knowledge of its history, composition and significance, so those engaged in the preservation of buildings should proceed only from a basis of knowledge. Far too often in the past, the cultural integrity of buildings and their settings have been compromised by approaches to restora-