

# OFF THE BOOKS

## IN YOUR SPACE

# Foundation polishes Midtown jewel

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*Special to The Plain Dealer*

For many years, the true splendor of the Kies-Murphy Mansion was obscured by a masonry storefront affixed to the building's facade. A recent \$1.2 million restoration effort, led by the Chesler Group, brought the 1874 brick Italianate structure back to its former majesty. Today the building is home to Saint Luke's Foundation, an organization that supports Cleveland-area nonprofit groups.

**NAME:** Saint Luke's Foundation

**ADDRESS:** 4208 Prospect Ave.,  
Cleveland

**VITALS:** Supporter of nonprofit groups through grant-making

With its slender arched windows, intricately carved sandstone lintels and ornate wood cornice, the Kies-Murphy building is a Midtown jewel. To reclaim that charm, developers had to undo the harm inflicted on the building when it was converted from a residence to a business in the late 1940s. The main entryway had been removed, the front porch demolished and windows bricked over.

"It was a very significant renovation," explains Kimberly St. John-Stevenson, St. Luke's communications officer. "It had to be forward-thinking so as to include the necessary technology, but they took great care to maintain as much of the original character of the space as possible."



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The grand walnut staircase at Saint Luke's Foundation leads from the foyer to second-floor offices featuring marble fireplaces.

For the staff, working in the building combines the best of old and new. A grand walnut staircase leads staffers to the second floor, where offices, once bedrooms, feature marble fireplaces, ornate plaster molding and soaring ceilings. A sitting area overlooks Prospect Avenue.

"You get that very comfortable feeling that a house provides," adds St. John-Stevenson.

*Trattner is a free-lance writer in Cleveland Heights.*

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