New Zeta Beta Tau house $250,000 investment

By Gene Sherman

The recent purchase of a new home by Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity represents a new phase in the life of a chapter which saw its second history begin in 1956. Designed expressly for fraternity living, the new ZBT house is located at 36 Manchester Road in suburban Brookline. One of the most recently completed fraternity houses on the East Coast, the ZBT house is a two-year-old home reflecting a quarter of a million dollar investment.

The move by the fraternity came this past August and brings ZBT a short half mile from the U. Bridge. The fraternity previously resided in the John Hancock at 2018 Commonwealth Avenue. "ZBT" was the first permanent home for the reactivated fraternity in 1956. Zeta Beta Tau had previously been on the M.I.T. campus from 1931 to 1936. Thirty years later led by two transfer students who were ZBT's, the Dover Club was founded in Baker House. After a two year period of residing in a special section of Baker House, the new fraternity colony applied to the IFC and subsequently acquired its first home.

Only three and a half years after the initiation of the Dover Club into Zeta Beta Tau as the resurrected Xi Chapter, ZBT has acquired the ultimate in fraternity living. The fifteen thousand square foot home is a three story residence of brick construction. The fraternity quarters are presently confined to the first three levels, although expansion of the third floor will increase the sleeping accommodations of the fraternity in the near future.

The fraternity's main party room highlights the basement level of the home. With facilities adequate for 350 people, the party room has a lounge and dining area, centered about a magnificent brick fireplace. Adjacent to the party area is the recreation and television lounge with the chapter's twenty foot bar. Other features of the basement level include a chapter room, a conference room, a laundry area, and a workout room.

The first floor common area is centered about an expansive living room. The adjoining dining room has accommodations for the service of 125 guests. The chapter's library is housed in a walnut-paneled den. In addition to hundreds of volumes this formal room contains many of the fraternity's awards and trophies in a handsome built-in display case.

The living area is confined to the second floor with the exception of the president's suite and three other bedrooms found on the first floor. Each member of the fraternity lives in a double or a triple, following in the chapter's tradition of personalized living accommodations. The rooms are handsomely decorated with maple furniture and accessories.

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