Welcome to Berkeley Engineering

Berkeley Engineering is a community that is dedicated to creating tomorrow’s leaders and supporting today’s pioneers. Students and researchers from around the world are drawn to Berkeley by its outstanding reputation, its internationally recognized faculty and its strong tradition of impact in research and teaching.

Earlier Berkeley engineers brought water to California’s great agricultural lands, pioneered the microelectronics that seeded Silicon Valley and helped build the unbuildable in structures like the Hoover Dam and the Golden Gate Bridge. Today, Berkeley engineers remain at the center of technological innovation worldwide.

For more information, visit: engineering.berkeley.edu/ess
1 | Bechtel Engineering Center
Home of Engineering Student Services (ESS). Named for Stephen D. Bechtel, who attended Berkeley before taking the reins of the Bechtel engineering empire. Be sure to explore the Center for Access to Education, newly remodeled Garbarini Lounge, Engineering Student Services (all on the 2nd floor), and the Kresge Engineering Library (on the 1st floor).

2 | McLaughlin Hall
Named for Donald McLaughlin, a professor at Harvard and Berkeley, first dean of engineering (1941-45), UC Regent (1951-67), and Peruvian gold mining tycoon. The building was designed by George Kelham and houses the administrative offices of the College of Engineering.

3 | Davis Hall
Davis Hall is home to the Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) department. Professor Raymond Davis spent 50 years on the Berkeley faculty and developed the Engineering Materials Laboratory into one of the world’s finest. Davis houses several laboratories for earthquake engineering research, including the Structures and Materials Laboratory and the Geotechnical Engineering Laboratory. The building’s ground-floor “structures bay” rises two stories, providing space for testing many types of materials and designs, from scale models of California highway overpasses to segments of the Golden Gate Bridge.

4 | O’Brien Hall
Morrough O’Brien spent two decades as an engineering professor before serving as dean of the College of Engineering from 1948-59. O’Brien Hall is home to environmental engineering, environmental quality labs, and the Water Resources Center Archives. The winning Concrete Canoe, built by a team of civil engineering students who compete nationally for the best concrete canoe, can be seen through the clear window walkway between McLaughlin and O’Brien Halls. Berkeley Engineering has many other competition teams such as the Steel Bridge Team, the Cal Solar Vehicle Project, and the Cal Seismic Design Team.

5 | Hesse Hall
Hesse Hall is directly connected to and west of O’Brien Hall. Designed by John Galen Howard and named for the Prussian-born founder of the College of Mechanics, Frederick Godfrey Hesse. It houses Mechanical Engineering labs, as well as Energy Science and Technology Research.

6 | Blum Hall
Richard C. Blum Hall is newly constructed as of 2010. It houses the Blum Center for Developing Economies. Their mission is to increase the well being of people in developing countries by designing, adapting and disseminating scalable and sustainable technologies and systems. The Blum Center is home to the largest minor on campus, the Global Poverty and Sustainable Technologies and Systems Minor. The Blum Center is housed in the new undergraduate certificate in design innovation. We are also planning studio facilities where students can create advanced technologies and hone their potential for marketplace adoption.

7 | Sutardja Dai Hall
This 141,000-square-foot building is the headquarters of CITRIS, the multi-campus interdisciplinary research program that is one of four California Institutes for Science and Innovation opened in 2009. The building honors a team of accomplished Berkeley engineering graduates: brothers Sehat and Pannat Sutardja and Wei Dai, the trio that founded Marvell Semiconductor, and Ting Chau. The building houses research labs, faculty offices, a nanofabrication lab, an auditorium, and the Qualcomm Cyber Cafe. CITRIS aims to improve energy efficiency, transportation, environmental monitoring, seismic safety, education, cultural research and health care. A technology museum on the 3rd floor is open to the public.

8 | Etcheverry Hall
The first UC-built building on the north side of Hearst Ave., it was named for Bernard Etcheverry, professor of drainage and irrigation and chairman of the department for nearly three decades. It once held a functioning nuclear reactor in its basement and a research wind tunnel, both now dismantled. It houses three engineering departments including Mechanical Engineering (ME), Nuclear Engineering (NE) and Industrial Engineering and Operations Research (IEOR).

9 | Soda Hall
Soda Hall was designed with wireless capabilities, and access to computer clusters for teaching and research as part of the campus’ Health Sciences Initiative. Yali’s Cafe is located on the 1st floor.

10 | Jacobs Hall
The home of the Jacobs Institute for Design Innovation expands the role of design in engineering education at Berkeley. No matter what field of engineering you’re in, you’ll get hands-on practice with design automation, rapid prototyping, and team-based learning. You’ll be challenged to approach the entire cycle of design, manufacturing and end-user needs from an integrated vantage point. Thanks to a $20-million commitment from the Paul and Stacie Jacobs Foundation, Berkeley Engineering launched the Jacobs Institute for Design Innovation at the Clinton Global Initiative in June 2013. We are currently developing a new undergraduate certificate in design innovation. We are also planning studio facilities where students can create advanced technologies and hone their potential for marketplace adoption.

11 | Cory Hall
Named for Clarence L. Cory, dean of the College of Mechanics and a faculty member for almost 40 years. Cory had a fifth floor added in 1985, which features a computer chip-inspired design motif on the exterior. It is home to Electrical Engineers (EE). The building houses a state-of-the-art electronic micro-fabrication facility and labs devoted to integrated circuits, lasers, and robotics. Cory has the dubious distinction of being the only site b o m b d twice by “The Unabomber” in the 1980s.

12 | Hearst Memorial Mining Building
Home to the Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) department. Designed by John Galen Howard and financed by Phoebe Apperson Hearst as a memorial to her husband George. The building underwent a massive restoration, completed in 2002, that included cutting-edge seismic retrofitting to protect the building in the event of a major earthquake. The brittle foundation was replaced with a shock-absorbent system of 134 steel and rubber bearings that allow the building to roll horizontally 28 inches in any direction. In addition to its meticulously restored vaulted entrance gallery, elegant sculptured windows, and grand marble staircase, the building houses new laboratories for advanced experiments in computation, ceramics, metals, and polymers, as well as facilities to develop nanoscale and superconducting materials. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.