Introducing Engineering Hall

The vision of the late industrialist and philanthropist Henry M. Rowan to provide first-class, innovative engineering education continues—and expands—with Engineering Hall open to serve the nationally regarded Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering.

Just two decades after Rowan University opened its doors to its first class of 100 engineering students, the college enrollment stands at 1,488 students this year. Persistent demand for increased enrollment during the past several years propelled the University to build Engineering Hall, which will enable it to welcome 500 more students and expand programming.

Among the building’s features are first-floor project labs that open to the outdoors, making extended space available for work on a variety of projects such as automotive engineering, solar arrays and drone technologies; a sustainability wing, where students can focus on such fields as alternative energy; designated lab space for specific departments; designated space for Freshman and Sophomore Engineering Clinics; biomedical engineering laboratories for research and education; space for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) outreach initiatives; and water and hydrology, cell culture, and wireless communication labs.

All Rowan engineering students will have access to and will benefit from this state-of-the-art facility. It houses the Experiential Engineering Education department (ExEEd), which oversees the Freshman and Sophomore Clinic experience for all majors; and houses Biomedical and Electrical & Computer Engineering departments, while providing additional lab spaces for Civil & Environmental and Mechanical Engineering. Joined by an enclosed pedestrian bridge to Henry M. Rowan Hall, the original engineering facility now set to be updated and enhanced, Engineering Hall provides a gateway off Bowe Boulevard to Rowan’s main campus in Glassboro.

(continued on reverse)
Public support for the project

The New Jersey Building Our Future Bond Act of 2012 funded $46 million of the $70.6 million project. The referendum was the first bond act in two decades to support construction at New Jersey higher education institutions. The State presented Rowan with the second-highest amount of funding.

Public art

The facility features two public artworks inspired by engineering.

Spanning the first floor lobby of Engineering Hall, a terrazzo installation named “Vector Space,” by Carolyn Braaksma and Brad Kaspari, contains tributes to the college namesake and electrical engineer Henry M. Rowan. The first is Faraday’s Law of induction at the entrance from Rowan Hall into Engineering Hall. The second is the Ohm’s Law wheel into which the rest of the illustration feeds imagery in the atrium. With colorful tile and metal inlays, the terrazzo illustrates various engineering concepts and equations, as well as fundamental themes of dynamics and innovation.

“Opticks,” a freestanding two-story sculpture by artist Beth Nybeck, is named for the book *Opticks*, Isaac Newton’s 1704 treatise on the effects of light. Standing just beyond the north wing of Engineering Hall, the stainless steel and aluminum figure represents a human head to reflect the quest for knowledge. To extend the symbolism and its relevance to engineering studies, the artist collected notebook pages from Rowan students and laser-cut enlargements of the aspiring engineers’ handwritten formulas and equations into the sculpture.

VISITING ENGINEERING HALL

Guests are welcome to tour the building, especially the featured areas highlighted below.

**Sustainability Lab** (Room 143) The “S-Lab” is a living laboratory that provides students the opportunity to learn about sustainable design through experiential activities. Students in Freshman and Sophomore Engineering Clinics will use the S-lab for hands-on projects related to energy and sustainability. The facility also will be available to students in disciplinary engineering courses throughout the curricula as well as students participating in pre-engineering programs.

**Collaboration Room** (Room 148) Supported by a generous gift from a member of the first engineering graduating class, the Catherine ’00 and James Ni Collaboration Room provides space for students to work in small groups.

**Biomedical Engineering Cell & Tissue Engineering Suite** (Room 209) This is an example of lab space that supports innovative research. Researchers here will create novel functional tissue and organs that offer new clinical treatment strategies. By conducting both basic and applied research, students will understand and control a cell’s response to various environments.

**Civil & Environmental Engineering Labs** (Room 118 and 119) As with all Rowan engineering facilities, these labs support the hallmarks of Rowan’s engineering education: project-based and hands-on learning. They are equipped to support instruction that includes fluid mechanics, water resources engineering, environmental engineering, civil engineering materials and geotechnical engineering.

**Graduate Office Suite** (Room 310) This space provides Ph.D. & master’s-level students space for both independent and collaborative research. It is a 24/7 facility in which knowledge and information are being generated on a continuous basis to further the College’s mission and goals.

**Bridge Terrace** (access through Room 348) The terrace provides a spacious outdoor environment for special gatherings in a unique engineering setting. The green roof features drought-resistant plants, an example of environmental engineering principles that have been blended into the building design.

“Vector Space” photos by Brycen Fischer