The Engineering Center

On the northeast corner of the campus at Boyd and Asp stands the Engineering Center, an impressive, four-story, $2.8 million addition to the College of Engineering facilities. With the new Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Center (Sooner Magazine, Jan. 1965) on the north campus, the Center doubles the space available for engineering programs.

Ultramodern in concept, the Center was designed to provide maximum use of all components. Even the external fluted columns are a working part of the building, carrying the utilities from the roof to each floor. Offices, classrooms and laboratories are housed in the 106,000 square feet of space. The Schools of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Civil Engineering and Environmental Science, Electrical Engineering and Industrial Engineering have offices in the new building, while the other facilities of the college are housed in Felgar Hall, the Engineering Laboratory Building, the Computer labs and the Nuclear Engineering Lab across the street from the Union.

The Center serves the college's 3,000 undergraduate students and 500 graduates, who will use half of the building for research. Undergraduate laboratories for basic courses include those for analog computers, fluid mechanics, electronics and energy conversion. Among the specialized labs are process control, cryogenics, plasma diagnostics, metallography, chemical engineering unit operations, soil mechanics, water pollution and sanitary engineering, isotopes, integrated circuits and human factors. The building also houses the Systems Research Center and the Bureau of Water Resources Research.

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The handsome new Center combines the utilitarian and the esthetic in giving the engineering student and his slide rule attractive surroundings in which to talk with computers and probe about in the world of electronics. The classrooms (lower right) are large, bright, airy and conducive to learning, and to offset the stark lines of computer labs and the complex clutter of electronics research (upper left), architects have provided planters on each floor (upper right), massive windows of glass and steel and the graceful sweep of the main stairwell (below left), which add to the feeling of light and space.
Dedication to excellence

It's the people that really count in a university, said the main speaker at the dedication of OU's massive new Engineering Center on Oct. 29. And the four-story, $2.8 million building just stood there, impassively, without offering a rebuttal. Indeed no campus building, young or old, would argue with that statement, for Carl E. Reistle Jr., chairman of the board of Humble Oil & Refining Co. and the principal speaker at the dedication ceremony, is right.

"Faculty members who challenge and motivate young persons and students who are responsive to challenge and are capable of quality performance are the ingredients of excellence," said Reistle, "and on both counts I think the University of Oklahoma is doing a remarkable job. You have attracted a really first-rate faculty, and are getting and motivating top high school graduates. Excellence is the result of such efforts."

Reistle praised the new center before an audience of students, faculty members, alumni and friends who gathered on the sunny autumn afternoon between the new center and Felgar Hall.

The 1922 chemical engineering graduate added that alumni could take pride in the fact that the University has graduated half of the petroleum engineers in the world.

Dr. Gene M. Nordby, dean of College of Engineering, presided at the dedication. The welcome was given by Dr. George L. Cross, who said OU's new buildings are being dedicated to the thousands of students who will enroll in the future and to the faculty who will teach them.

Julian J. Rothbaum, Tulsa, president of the Board of Regents, accepted the building on behalf of the board, the citizens of Oklahoma and the students.

Carl Reistle (top photo) was the main speaker at the dedication of the new Center. Below, Dean Nordby presents a 75th anniversary medallion to Dean Emeritus William H. Carson (right).